

THE
JAPAN TIMES,

A WEEKLY REVIEW

OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

VOL. I. NEW SERIES.

January to June, 1878.

CONDUCTED BY CHARLES RICKERBY.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "JAPAN GAZETTE," NO. 70, MAIN STREET, YOKOHAMA.

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January 5, 1878.

[PRICE—FIFTY CENTS.]

[We cannot expect the public to take the same interest as ourselves in the tale of difficulties surmounted, and obstacles thrown in our way, before this first number of the JAPAN TIMES was permitted to see the light. But we must so far disregard the etiquette of the profession as to take leave to express, in this unusual manner, our deep sense of obligation and gratitude to the proprietors of the JAPAN GAZETTE. If any benefit accrues to any one from the addition of this Journal to the ranks of the foreign Press in Japan, that benefit is primarily conferred by them. Without their generous and disinterested aid, the JAPAN TIMES could not have been produced; and the rarity of the incident—in the East—of one journal thus helping another, must excuse the singularity of our making this public and grateful acknowledgment of the favour.]

SILK, AND SILKWORMS' EGGS.

WHY do the Japanese silk growers allow the best Japanese silk to be produced in Italy?

The native newspapers, last autumn, teemed with tidings of disaster, and prognostics of ruin, falling on a special branch of silk business, the production and sale of silkworms' eggs. The extraordinary fluctuations in prices were recorded, the speculative, gambling, character of the trade denounced, the damage done to the silk trade generally was demonstrated, and the evil effect on the morals and fortunes of all engaged in the unholy traffic religiously exposed. A number of native journalists raised a general wail, a few suggested remedies for the ill. But these physicians have done no good, because the basis of all their prescriptions are two nostrums which can only do harm—government protection and government interference with trade. The Government was called on by one paper, to subsidize the dealers in *cartons*; by another, to prohibit their export; in one article, to limit their production, in another, to buy up the crop; and the only sensible suggestion which we remember, was made by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, at the end of a string of senseless ones:—that no assistance, direct or indirect, should be given by the Government, and that the dealers should be left to their own devices. We propose to tell the dealers how to use the remedy which they have in their own hands,—a very simple one, a remedy which will work a perfect cure, the use of which will benefit not the silk seed branch only, but the whole trade, and which will redound to the advantage of their customers as well as themselves—the only condition on which sound, wholesome, profitable trade can be carried on.

Let us first record a few statistics. There were exported in

		cards,	at	from	\$1.00	to	\$3.00
1870,	1,450,000	"	"	"	0.40	"	2.00
1871,	1,800,000	"	"	"	1.40	"	3.50
1872,	1,280,000	"	"	"	0.57	"	3.50
1873,	1,435,000	"	"	"	0.35	"	1.00
1874,	1,300,000	"	"	"	0.10	"	1.60
1875,	737,000	"	"	"	0.50	"	3.50
1876,	1,035,000	"	"	"	0.08	"	0.80
1877,	1,150,000	"	"	"			

Nothing but these figures are wanted to justify everything that native moralists have preached against the trade. But in addition:—in 1874, 500,000 cards were burnt by the dealers (after being, it was believed, paid for by the

Government,) and this year, a yet unknown number have also been destroyed. Last year, the Japanese spoilt their own market, by trying to sell 300,000 themselves, in Italy and France.

We will now compare a couple of almost typical silk seasons; for silk growers, a very bad and very good one; 1875-6 and 1876-7. In both, we take dates and prices from the time when the market really opened, and only continue the table to the date when, the bulk of the business being done, transactions in neither year would affect the general average to any important extent. We have not elaborated the table to an absolute correctness, by recording in it the number of piculs bought each mail at the average price; as this would only encumber it, without affecting our argument. We take Hanks, good No. 2, as a fair average of the quality, and our prices are for the picul:—

Then, in Season 1875—1876, we have

Hanks; Good No. 2, from	July 1	to	Aug. 23	at	\$435		
"	"	"	Aug. 24	"	Sept. 6	"	445
"	"	"	Sept. 7	"	Sept. 20	"	450
"	"	"	Sept. 21	"	Nov. 6	"	455
"	"	"	Nov. 7	"	Nov. 23	"	435
"	"	"	Nov. 24	"	Dec. 7	"	425
"	"	"	Dec. 8	"	Dec. 24	"	415
"	"	"	Dec. 25	"	Jan. 8	"	437
"	"	"	Jan. 9	"	Jan. 25	"	445
Hanks; Good No. 2; Average price							\$439

And in Season 1876—1877, we have

Hanks; Good No. 2, from	July 1	to	July 22	at	\$ 710		
"	"	"	July 23	"	Aug. 7	"	785
"	"	"	Aug. 8	"	Aug. 21	"	770
"	"	"	Aug. 22	"	Sept. 11	"	895
"	"	"	Sept. 12	"	Sept. 22	"	1,065
"	"	"	Sept. 23	"	Oct. 10	"	1,050
"	"	"	Oct. 11	"	Oct. 24	"	935
"	"	"	Oct. 25	"	Nov. 8	"	810
"	"	"	Nov. 9	"	Nov. 24	"	770
"	"	"	Nov. 25	"	Dec. 9	"	740
"	"	"	Dec. 10	"	Dec. 22	"	810
"	"	"	Dec. 23	"	Jan. 9	"	850
Hanks; Good No. 2, Average price							\$849

Again, a difference of nearly one hundred per cent shown between the average prices of two seasons, good and bad, \$438 and \$849; a most unhealthy fluctuation, damaging to the interests of buyer and seller alike. Whereas, if Japanese silk-growers would but take the needful means to ensure that Japanese silk should be produced only in Japan—by raising only enough seed for their own needs, and steadily declining to send any to market for sale to foreigners—their Silk would in a very short time find its normal price as a staple, which would only vary, as the prices of other staples, from what we may call legitimate and inartificial causes. And that this price would be a high and thoroughly remunerative one is certain. Japan silk, for colour and brilliancy, is not to be surpassed; it has a fine and strong fibre, and with careful reeling—as has been proved at Tomioka—can be improved, so as to fit it to rank in the very first place.

Now the mere export of eggs at all puts the foreign silk grower on the same level with the native; and, in practice, the native foolishly places the foreigner in an even better position than himself, by allowing him to buy the best of the eggs, retaining inferior for his own use. For the process of filling the cards is this:—the moth is first placed on a

card which we will call No. 1, on which it begins to lay eggs, after staining the paper with a preliminary exudation. As soon as this has ceased, and it commences to lay well-formed eggs steadily, it is removed to No. 2, and thence, as soon as it shows signs of exhaustion, to No. 3. Now, this has been discovered by the Italian egg buyers, and they will only have, if possible, the No. 2 cards, which contain the most vigorous produce of the insect. And, tempted by high price and immediate profit, the Japanese sells this No. 2 card and chances the production of his own silk from the No. 1 and 3. And, necessarily, the varying amount of strength in the worms, bred from this mixed seed, acts injuriously on the character of the silk they produce.

Of course, denied access to the silk districts, we have not sufficient knowledge of the silk culture in Japan, to be able to give exact statistics of the cost of production, or of the profits of the trade, and we must leave this part of the work to our native fellow workers; but we can give figures sufficiently convincing, we should imagine, to native readers. Taking the cost of a card at \$0.35 which we believe to be very nearly right,—and the average selling price of cards, all round, for the past eight years, at \$1.35, which we believe to be very considerably above the real price: then, on the 9,600,000 odd cards, remains a gross profit of \$9,600,000. But from this sum must be deducted the cost of bringing the cards to their market; the cost of the cards produced and not sold; of those actually burnt or destroyed in 1874 and 1877; and also the value of the cocoons destroyed to produce the car ons, both sold and unsold. If, therefore, we place the total profit made on the trade at Eight millions of Dollars for the eight years, or say \$1,000,000 per annum, we believe we shall have stated it very favourably for the producer.

Now let the producers imagine themselves resisting the temptation of the chance of making, in one year, a profit of a couple of millions, against nothing, or worse than nothing in the next; and,—steadily refusing to bring cards to market, no matter what price be offered for them, devoting themselves to the production of silk from these eggs which they refuse to sell. What would be the immediate result? We have no hesitation in replying—and we believe all foreigners engaged in the trade will agree with us—an immediate rise in the price of all Japan silks in stock in Europe, directly the fact of the refusal to sell eggs was established as a certainty. And an increase in the first bids for the next new season's crop, which would gradually rise, until what we have called the normal price of Japan silk as a staple was reached. Subsequent to this, only legitimate rises and falls would be observable, from such causes as affect all other staples:—wars, and rumours of wars; all the natural, political, and economical disturbances from which we pray to be delivered; and the ebb and flow of demand and supply. We believe we understate the probable profit to Japanese silk growers—were they to adopt this obvious method of improving their position—when we put it at \$200 per picul—say, all round, that an average of each season would sell at \$700 instead of \$500. Now taking 13,000 piculs as an average crop again understating our case—this alone would give a profit considerably more than double what we have shown to be the average profit on the eggs. And we leave entirely out of consideration the effect on the quality of Japan silk, generally; of judicious selection of only the best eggs for rearing; and the natural increase in quantity of the crop. On this head, there need be no fear of over-running the demand, were the fact once established that Japan silk could only be got from Japan—at least until double the average we have taken for our argument had been reached. The effect of improving the reeling, by persevering with the introduction of steam filatures, we also leave aside for the time. We content ourselves with affirming that—labouring, still, under all the existing disadvantages of imperfect manipulation, and taking the present low figure as the measure of the crop, Japanese silk growers would make double the profit from refusing to sell eggs than they make now by selling them.

This is not fiscal Protection. Nothing need be asked from their own native Government by the silk growers, nor feared from foreign Embassies. It is simply an act of legitimate self-protection by the trade; of availing itself of advantages which Nature has given to it, and which no one has a right to demand that it shall share with its rivals.

Japan grows a silk of peculiar quality, which is wanted in Europe for certain purposes, and is worth a certain price. Italy, France, Syria, India, China, are in the same position. Why should the Japanese, by allowing their seed to be exported, let Italy or France grow Japanese silk as well as their own? They cannot be compelled to do it: hitherto they have been induced into the error by the glittering bribe of an immediate profit. We have shown them that, by refusing to sell seed, they can gain a double profit; and if only—for the single season of 1878-79, they will but try the experiment we suggest, we are thoroughly certain that they will have every reason to be satisfied with the result.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

WE intend to place on record in these columns as complete an analysis of the system of government in Japan as circumstances will allow us to procure; and the facts that the Mikado's Ministers and the junior members of the various Departments of State are on terms of confidential friendship with the chiefs and subordinates of the embassies accredited to his court—and, also, that to several of the Departments are attached foreign advisers, make our task easy, and give us the assurance that enquiry will not be deemed obtrusive, nor impertinent the tender of advice. After the mere preliminary enumeration of the several Boards of Government at the capital, and statements of the rank, number, and duties of the officers who compose them, the most important part of this work will be a description of the system under which are governed the provinces or prefectures into which the empire has, since the Restoration, been divided. And it is because a rumour is current, that a re-arrangement of these prefectures is in contemplation, that we postpone the publication of the statistics to which we refer, to the more immediate need of pointing out to the native government what seems to be an error of principle in their existing system of provincial rule.

There appears to be no settled method of choosing the officers who are charged with this most important duty, nor have we been, as yet, able to discover what are the qualifications deemed essential in a man to whom are committed the destinies of a prefecture. Yet the seriousness of this matter can hardly be over-rated. Not only is it of great present moment that those who have charge of the working of the machine of government should be competent to direct its action; but it is of even greater importance for the future welfare of the country, considering the crisis through which it is passing, that they should be equal to their position. For, though their action may be—as we know it is—fettered, if not absolutely dictated, by orders from head-quarters; still, from their reports and dispatches must be derived much of the information on which are founded the orders which are transmitted to them; and it is essentially necessary, therefore, for the well-being of the people, that the education, attainments, training, and habits of thought of each of these Prefects, should fit him for the post of governing the special district over which he is sent to rule. We foreigners, too, as well as the natives of Japan, have a direct interest in the matter; and although, as we have indicated, the object we have momentarily in view is to point out to the advisers of the Mikado what appears to us to be a mistake, in the internal administration of their own country; it is not permitted to a foreign journalist here ever to lose sight of foreigners' interests, advancement of which, happily, in almost every case, marches side by side with improvement of the condition of the natives. And, in this respect, while it is evident that a cultivated, large-minded, Provincial Governor, who can add to local knowledge of his district, its necessities and its resources, an appreciation of the way in which foreign skill and capital may aid him to supply the one and develop the other, has the means and power to influence the central government in a direction tending towards the common advantage of all;—it is equally clear that the exhibition of opposite qualities may readily make their influence felt far beyond their local sphere of action.

It is this consideration which brings us to the point we would impress on the Government. And, ignoring for the time the conservatism, which takes the form of antipathy to foreigners and resistance to all reform originating

in western habits of thought—we would ask, how is it possible for a Prefect to avoid doing harm to his prefecture, and discrediting the Central Government, who is sent to his post a stranger to the people, and to them almost as much a foreigner as if he had come across the sea? Whereas, by appointing a local magnate, Government enhances the authority of its officer, by supplementing the office with all his local and personal influence. Either he is a man of rank and family, with all the advantages of wealth, position, and hereditary and traditional respect among the people; or, by force of character and display of ability, he has won their confidence and affection. In either case, he must have special knowledge of the locality, its resources and its wants, and of the feelings, prejudices, and habits of the inhabitants. And yet, in its selection of prefects and other provincial officials, this government almost invariably weakens itself and retards the progress of the nation, by wilfully and deliberately neutralizing these advantages which lie ready for its use. Men of Northern origin are sent to govern districts in the South, and so on round the compass, the governors being, often, even absolutely distasteful to the governed, from ancient feudal antipathy, and the only symptom of mitigation of the hardship of the arrangement—and that a totally delusive one—is its reciprocal force. While the single counterbalancing advantage gained by the Central Government, at the expense to itself and the people at large of so much loss of power, is a certain amount of increased feeling of confidence—not in the loyalty of its subjects—but that it will get such information as the magistrates can give it, of disaffection to its rule; and be thus enabled to check the first movements of revolt by immediate repression.

We do not hesitate to say that this fault in the system is so grave as to make the system itself almost as bad as it can be. Examples of its defective working are so numerous in history, ancient and modern, and so obvious, that to adduce any would be almost an impertinence to our readers. It is, virtually, the system of government by force, as opposed to that of the government of love and reason; and is only excusable by necessity, in the case of conquest of a country by aliens. And, even in this latter case, a wise government avails itself as soon as possible of the assistance in its magistracy of natives friendly to its rule, and in all respects shows a wholesome regard for the wishes and prejudices of the subject race. Such has been the practice of our rule in British India, by far the most successful instance on record of such a government, though against its success have been arrayed almost all the possible difficulties of difference in race, creed, and climate. One of the strongest holds which we had over the people of India during the military mutiny of 1857—which must have succeeded, had the sympathies of the population been with the mutineers—was the affection and respect of that population for their foreign magistrates, most of whom had been born in the country, and whose fathers and grandfathers had been magistrates before them; respect and regard which had been won from the ruled by solicitude for their welfare, intimate knowledge of their languages, habits, and customs, and respect for their prejudices of caste and religion, so long manifested—almost ostentatiously—by their rulers. Indeed, the greatest objection to the competitive system, when applied to this splendid service, was the destruction, in the native mind, of the traditions attached to the old names of the Metcalfes and the Malcolms, the Elphinstones and the Munros; and though it has given us some additional hold upon the country by admitting natives of the soil to even the higher ranks of the service, it is doubtful whether what we have gained counterbalances what we have lost.

In this country, the Government has not the excuse for the system, that it was forced upon it by the necessities of conquest, though, of course, the origin of its error in judgment is not far to seek. Clan sympathies, clan jealousies, and the other inherent faults of the feudal system had long divided and distracted the country, and these the advisers of the restored Mikado have sought to obliterate by centralizing the government. In this they were right, in principle—but they have pushed the principle to a deleterious extreme by delocalizing their officers. The evils of feudalism were great and patent, and the formal relinquishment of their fiefs by the Daimios had not sufficed to destroy them. It is useless to cut down a weed, if its root

is left. The spirit of feudalism had leavened the national character, and permeated the constitution of every province in the country, and the leaders of the Restoration policy thought that safety for it and them could only be found in its total eradication. Putting aside—for the moment—the question whether they were right or wrong, we would ask them to consider whether the system they have pursued so far was the right means to their end; whether it has succeeded, or is likely to succeed; and whether a change is not likely to 'pay'—politically, as well as financially? Have they not intensified, rather than weakened, clan prejudice among the provincial communities, by the exhibition of alien provincial governors, whose ignorance of local peculiarities must often expose them to private ridicule, and whose every public act is open to invidious comparison with the procedure of the 'good old times,' by critics who would cheerfully enough have submitted to change or exaction, at the hands of the hereditary chiefs whom they look upon yet as their natural leaders? It may be urged—and with great force—that these natural leaders had often led the people to revolt against constituted authority, and that the newly established government was justified in its fear that what had been so often done before might be attempted again. And the example of the revolt of this year in Satsuma may be quoted against us as destructive of our theory. We reply by instancing the various revolts which preceded that of the Satsuma samurai, in provinces regulated under the new system. And what, but the influence of Itagaki, the *karo* of the old daimiate, prevented Tosa from throwing its weight—while the balance trembled—into the scale against the Government? 'Trust me not at all, or all in all' may, too, have been the thought which kept neutral the hereditary family at Kagoshima:—we prefer to think so, of the nobles who defied the British fleet in 1863; rather than to believe that they were actuated, in 1877, by a coward care for life and land, whatever the event of the struggle between the Government and its discarded soldiery.

But though we think an error of judgment has been committed, and that—after the Daimios had laid their fiefs at the feet of their restored suzerain in 1869—a bolder policy of trust and confidence in the hereditary aristocracy would have been more successful than the timid counsels which have prevailed, we would not be understood now to advocate any decisive retrograde step. The change from feudalism to centralized despotism was too sudden, and precipitation was its worst characteristic. Any equally abrupt re-creation of municipal or provincial self-government, now, would be confusing and harmful. What the empire wants is PEACE, and all experiments likely to put its present quiet in hazard, whether in its internal administration or in its relations with foreign powers, cannot be deprecated too strongly by all true friends of Japan. All that we would, ourselves, ask of the government at present is—to consider whether, in making any changes which appear imperative in the system of provincial government, such alteration should not rather be in the direction of utilizing local talent and influence, and even clan feeling; than in that of increasing still more the pressure of centralization, which already appears to impartial foreign observers greater than the nation can bear?

THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

DURING the past twenty years the hope has been growing in Foreign Offices, Chambers of Commerce, and Missionary Synods, that in Japan had been found the 'pou sto', from which the inert mass of China might be moved. We would not insinuate that such atmospheres have been harmful to the plant, but it is certain that its growth has been slow and uneven, and that it seems to-day farther from fruition than when its first leaflets shot up from the soil. The arrival of the Chinese Embassy in Japan has been hailed by some as a favourable development. We regret that we cannot so regard it; but we cannot, however pleasant might be the dream, close our eyes to the fact that the Government of China may entertain views and wishes of a character diametrically opposed to those of our own statesmen, merchants, and philanthropists. When the Treaty between the two countries was arranged in 1874, the clause, proposed by China, stipulating a common defensive alliance against the enemies of either, though at the time received by many foreign observers with ridicule or indifference, was by no means so regarded by more

thoughtful men. That mixed motives prompted the cabinet of Peking to accept the humiliating adjustment of the Formosan difficulty, we are all of course aware; but we shrewdly suspect that the desire to conciliate Japan, and to thereby pave the way for an attempt to gain her help, in persistence in the old policy of isolation, had more weight than any fear of what she could do, either in Formosa or on the continent—even as much as the dread of the news of her success stimulating internal rebellion. The quiet, thorough, and imperturbable manner in which has been obliterated the Woosung railway,—that leaf of the *Spes fallax* which looked so very like a blossom,—was certainly ill-calculated to support the expectation that China would follow Japan's example in accepting the civilization—and the cotton yarn—of the West; and, with our memory of these discouraging circumstances unimpaired, we regret to be unable to greet the arrival of the Chinese Embassy with any enthusiasm, a fear obtruding itself lest, rather than a step in what we deem the right direction, it should be meant as retrograde and an attempt to take from us, who have so little in Japan, even that we have.

That the bond they wish to strengthen between China and Japan is no mere sentimental alliance of 'peoples,' but that the existing from of government is approved at Peking, and that the Mikado's Ministers and their policy, individually and collectively, enjoy the sympathy of the advisers of the Emperor, has also been distinctly shown within the last twelve months. At the outbreak of the Satsuma rebellion, vessels-of-war were offered, and at a singularly opportune moment, as much ammunition as could be spared from the garrisons of Northern China was actually supplied, though the unsettled state of the country there hardly justified the sacrifice; and this seizure of the first opportunity to give effect to the defensive alliance clause has much significance. And that the efforts of Japan to gain recognition, as an independent nation, and on equal and reciprocal terms, from the Powers with whom she has concluded commercial treaties, have been carefully watched by Chinese statesmen, is certain. Hsii, the joint ambassador to England, was first nominated for the embassy hither, and was a resident here, *incognito*, for several months, in the discharge of a private and confidential mission of enquiry into the state of politics, and he was succeeded by a mandarin of rank, acting in the same capacity, who studied and reported on the public works. The example of Japan, as having the control of her own railways, was quoted in the now celebrated protest of the Toutai of Shanghai against the aggressive action of the Woosung Railway Company; and as the plant and permanent way of the Company was, we know, carefully removed and packed,—it is believed for transmission to Formosa,—it is more than probable that the Chinese authorities objected only to the establishment of the little *imperium in imperio* sought by the Company, while fully realizing the advantages of rapid transit of men and material. Again, Mr. Grosvenor, when prosecuting, at Yunnan, the enquiry into the murder of Mr. Margary, had quoted to him, by the provincial officials, the example of Japan as controlling her own Customs Revenue,—while China still suffered the interference of foreigners:—and we cannot reject the conclusion from all these facts, that the Chinese Government are fully aware of the position of affairs in Japan, and are watching its progressive steps towards civilization on the western model, though—it may be—in a spirit and from a point of view widely divergent from those which we should like them to use.

On this side of the China Sea, we have already seen somewhat, and expect to see more, of appeals in the native Japanese press, to the example of China, in successfully resisting what are called the 'encroachments' of the Treaty powers; and we have every reason to believe that the newspapers reflect the opinions of many prominent men in office. That the desire to promote friendly relations, by neighbourly acts in time of need, exists in Tokio as well as in Peking, has been lately shown in many ways. China's proffer of help to put down the Satsuma rebellion was but a fair return for Japan's offers of assistance, last year, towards the relief of the Shantung famine. Some contribution in coin was sent, rice was offered at a nominal price, and a loan proposed to them upon exceptionally favourable terms. That the two Governments are on the most friendly footing, and that all recollection of the For-

mosa quarrel is dead, appears perfectly clear; and it is certain that both entertain the belief that they are wronged by foreigners:—they resent, equally, the ex-territorial clause in the treaties with foreign powers; with equal pride and independent spirit, (qualities with much in them to admire) they chafe under the restrictions which these treaties impose upon their conduct of foreign trade; and neither, we fear, are willing to accept the truth, except upon compulsion, that China and Japan were not created for the sole use and habitation of Chinese and Japanese; but like the rest of the world, for the general behoof of all mankind.

But though we cannot, for these reasons, greet the arrival of the Chinese Embassy in Japan as an event certain, or even likely, to advance foreign interests on either side of the China Sea, we should be wrong to deny their due value to what arguments can be adduced against so gloomy a view. There are certainly some Japanese statesmen, far-sighted and intelligent, who understand that the new civilization of Japan is quite infantile, and frankly accept the provisions of the Treaties, as necessary restraints until that civilization shall have gained sufficient strength to permit of their removal. And, in spite of their recent circular, offering to throw away the export duties' revenue, if only they may be permitted to kill altogether the import trade,—it is clear, from articles recently published in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, a recognized Government organ, that some members and adherents of the Government have somewhat more knowledge of true political economy. The Chinese Ambassador, therefore, will have opportunities of both hearing and reading expositions of broader and more liberal views on both political and commercial questions than are current in Peking; and we shall be delighted to own our prognostics false, should he use such opportunities aright; should the arguments and example of the enlightened statesmen to whom we have referred, overcome his prejudices and change his habit of thought. There is one subject—religion—on which he is hardly likely to find any of the Japanese Ministers ready to accord with him, to the prejudice of foreigners; while we have reason to know that the decay of Bhuddism in Japan, the revival of Sintoism, and the toleration of Christianity, have caused more anxiety and concern at Peking than would be generally supposed. Such sudden lapse from faith, and spread of positive heresy, have quite bewildered the Chinese official mind, which not only recognizes in them evidences that a formerly powerful means of influencing the political progress of Japan in parallel grooves to their own is lost to them; but fears lest, spreading to China itself, the new doctrines may hasten the fall of that feeble fabric which hardly now suffices to support a decayed dynasty. As officials of an irresponsible despotism, we cannot wonder that they should regard Christianity, especially, with fear and dislike, for if it does not exactly teach republican principles, its theory of government is that of a monarchy with the strictest limitations. "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's" implied that Cæsar was to get only his just dues. And, though arguments in favour of slavery and standing armies have been drawn from the writings of its apostles, it is certain that the general tendency of its doctrine is levelling, and its policy liberal; and such rulers as Chinese mandarins can hardly be expected to favour a religion which not only teaches the lowest coolie that his soul is his own, but puts into his head revolutionary notions respecting his right to his body and the products of his labour. The indifference of the Japanese, and the assurance they have that Christianity has no longer the aggressive character which threatened their autonomy as a nation when it was first preached to them, guard us against their sympathizing with the Chinese in opposition to its progress; and, with regard to the decline of Bhuddism, we are inclined to think that there are strong financial reasons in the way of any attempt to arrest it. Here, therefore, are lines on which the representatives of the two countries are certain to diverge, and for the credit of Japan, we must hope that they will not be the only ones. But it is not at the end of an article, that we would enumerate the many evidences of Japan's having shot ahead of China in the path of progress; this is a comparison which we may elaborate on another occasion; for to-day, we are content to give our readers the warning that, if the Chinese embassy to this country be ultimately the means of impelling China to follow Japan on the same road—such a result is not likely to be that anticipated by the Government which sent it.

AN APOLOGY FOR A PROLOGUE.

IT is possible that some of our readers may be disappointed, when they seek in vain in these columns for an introductory article, setting forth the journal's policy. But, as an old duellist who has 'given his proofs' enjoys a certain immunity from challenge or strife; so the conductor of the *Japan Times* of 1878 claims the privilege of referring to the file of its first series—from 1865 to 1870—in lieu of publishing any formal prospectus, when issuing the first number of a second. If the memory of the writer serves him well, it was in the third number of the original publication, that announcement was made of the discovery that the Treaty Powers had concluded their arrangements with a potentate who had no sufficient *status*; that the Shogoon (or, as he was then called, the Tycoon) was but an hereditary generalissimo of the Empire; that he exercised but a limited authority over many of the Daimios; that there were provinces in the land where his warrant did not run; that the fiction, so long believed in Europe, of a dual government of Japan—spiritual and temporal—had no foundation in fact; that the rank conferred by the Court of Kioto was universally recognized as taking precedence of that granted at Yedo; and that—in view of the growing dissatisfaction of many powerful chiefs with the rule of the Bakufu—and of their fear lest foreign trade should strengthen and lighten its yoke—security for ourselves, our lives, property, and commerce, could not be guaranteed, except by such a revision of the Treaties as should relegate the Shogoon to his proper place, and restore the Mikado to his legitimate throne, as the universally acknowledged Lord Paramount and Sovereign of Japan.

How, until this policy bore its fruit, the *Japan Times*, consistently, through good and bad fortune, and alone in the foreign press of China or Japan, supported the cause, and enunciated the views, of the Restoration party—is it not written in the book of the chronicles of the time—in the back numbers of the paper? And, although we acknowledge, to the full, the truth of the axiom—that a man who cannot change his opinions is a fool; we have yet to be shown the folly of the policy advocated from 1865 to 1870 by this journal; and, moreover, have seen nothing in the conduct of the nation's affairs by its present rulers—in spite of all their errors of detail—which would justify any friend of the country in agitating for change. As has been stated in another column, what Japan specially requires for the development of its resources, the increase of its wealth, the happiness of its people, is—PEACE; and much hardship should be endured, much manifest and possible improvement postponed, should redress of grievance, or attainment of reform, necessitate any disturbance of that tranquillity which is for the nation, at present, the one greatest good. Therefore, though the right and duty of criticising Government measures will be maintained and fulfilled—of which, indeed, instance is given in other columns, our criticism will be friendly, and we trust that our advice will not be thought intrusive.

Beyond these general remarks, we have no intention of enunciating the policy of the *Japan Times*. For its opinions on Treaty revision, extra-territorial jurisdiction, finance, political economy, education, racing, 'Shakespeare and the musical glasses,' enquirers after truth must search its columns. On their correctness, and on the ability with which they may be expressed, it does not become us to anticipate a verdict. But this we may be permitted to say:—no attempt will be made to make the paper a vehicle for the circulation of the views of a single mind. That the various chords struck shall be in harmony with the key-note he sets, it is the privilege and duty of its conductor to ensure; but it will be his endeavour to bring to bear, on each important question which calls for consideration, the force of that intellect which is best qualified to treat it. The *Japan Times* will be, therefore, the organ of a party. But it will not, for this reason, refuse its aid to the dissemination of views adverse to its own, nor will it decline the assistance of critics who may deem its own views to have been inefficiently expressed. And the best proof we can offer of our good faith and impartiality is—that to friend or foe, liberal or conservative, old or young Japan, to men of any race or language, creed or degree, the correspondence columns and the subscription list of the paper are alike open.

But, though evading to the extent that we have done, what is generally held to be the duty of the conductor of a new venture in the field of journalism—we would draw the attention of our readers to the information and assistance given to them, in their work or pleasure, by the other than literary pages of the paper. Merchants who remember its first series, will bear in mind the reputation the *Japan Times* then enjoyed for the independence, as well as the fullness and accuracy, of its commercial information and market reports, while its tables of statistics were clear, comprehensive, and easy of reference. This reputation it must be our first care to revive and strengthen. We have indicated, by the wording of the paper's title, that Commerce is entitled to the first place in order of our consideration; and constant and earnest endeavour will be directed towards making the *Japan Times* of the future as trustworthy and convenient a file for reference concerning the facts and figures of the Japan trade, as was the *Japan Times* of the past.

For readers outside of Japan, and for visitors to its shores, a quantity of useful information will be given. Correspondents, here and at home, often wish to know when letters they are writing are due at their addresses, and whether mails, dispatched by particular steamers, arrived at their destination within their schedule time. Our "Mail Steamers' Register" will afford this information. Visitors to Yokohama are often at a loss to know where their multitudinous wants may be supplied: our "Professional and Tradal Directory" will inform them. The Railway Time Table and Table of Jinrickisha fares will also be appreciated by this class of readers; while the method we have adopted, and the type we use, in our advertisement columns, will make reference to them more facile, we think, than under any other system yet offered to the general public. Any suggestions for the improvement of these parts of our paper, or requests to give additional information, we shall be glad to receive and attend to and, though we are unable in this first number to do all that is required in this direction,—from want of the necessary material, we have no doubt of being able to supply every want of this character within a few weeks.

neither time, labour, nor expense will be spared to make the *Japan Times* complete and sufficient, as what its title proclaims it to be:—a weekly review of Japanese Commerce, Politics, Literature, and Art.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE are quite aware that in the article on Provincial Government in another page, only one side of the case has been fully stated, and that there are many cogent arguments adducible on the other. If the Prefect appointed under the present system is honest and able, he ought to be of great service in checking corruption and saving the public money. And it is quite possible, too, that local representative assemblies, or the municipal government of sub-districts, would give full scope for the exercise and use of the talents of the local men. Unhappily, this question of popular representation, if not a 'burning' one, is at present too hot to touch. Doubtless many other reasons in favour of the existing system will occur to readers of the article in question, as to ourselves: but the limits of such an essay do not permit the case on both sides to be fully stated, and we have therefore confined ourselves to setting forth those in support of the side to which we ourselves incline.

IS there any Japanese equivalent for our saying, that 'a prophet has no honour in his own country?' The present Government has so long made it essential to the appointment of officials of any rank that they shall not be natives of the locality in which they hold their posts, that it may appear to some to act upon the principle. Indeed, this negative qualification, so far as we know at present, is almost the only one indispensable in a candidate for provincial office. Now it cannot be denied that, generally, a claim to the gift of prophecy has somewhat of importance in it specially irritating, as assuming a superiority over the prophet's neighbours, which he has neither inherited, nor gained by any intelligible means; and as, besides, his predictions generally take the disagreeable form of warning of disaster or rebuke of sin, it is hardly to be

wondered at that a prophet should be unpopular, and—as we see—the wisdom of ages has crystallized the fact into a proverb. But a Prefect is not a prophet.

IT is doubtful whether Chinese residents here appreciate the arrival of their country's representatives as a boon of altogether unmixed good. The welcome they gave to them certainly did not exhibit symptoms of wild delight: indeed, it appeared to be altogether of a perfunctory and 'official' character. Ten times the amount of crackers expended, and lanterns displayed, do honour to any banker or merchant moderately popular among his Chinese clerks and customers, when he either leaves the settlement or returns to it. We strongly suspect that our Celestial friends have had a pretty easy time under the mild rule of the Kenrei, and that a Chinese Consul will be far more curious as to their means of livelihood and the amount of their incomes than will be altogether agreeable.

WE shall be surprised if Japanese journalists do not soon find reason to adopt the opinion we have elsewhere expressed respecting the Chinese embassy. That in their demands for the abolition of extra-territorial jurisdiction and revision of the tariff in a protectionist sense they are honest and earnest cannot be doubted: they are equally so—and prove their truth in their prison martyrdom—in their struggles for freedom of thought and language, and in their aspirations towards representative government; in their desire for limitation of the monarchy, or even, in some cases, in their admiration of republican institutions. It is unfortunate that their grasp is not yet wide enough to hold the truths, that isolation implies despotism, and Protection poverty; and that, in refusing freedom to foreigners, they are repelling their best allies in the effort to gain freedom for themselves. The Chinese ambassador may gain their mistaken plaudits, by supporting, in council with his colleagues, the claim of Japan to exercise jurisdiction over the stranger within her gates; or so to revise the Customs Tariff as to extinguish foreign trade:—but Japanese journalists will not so applaud the advice he is likely to give in private conversation with their own rulers:—such as offering the *Peking Gazette* as an example of what a newspaper should be, or recommending the cangue, or the split bamboo, as more suitable punishment than six months' imprisonment, for a journalist who writes nonsense about parliaments and ministerial responsibility.

WHEN this journal was first started, in September 1865, we opened a column to correspondents under the head of "Notes and Queries." Every one knows what has been done at home by the English newspaper whose name we borrowed, and how really useful it has been, as well as interesting, in bringing out, from the remotest nooks and corners, an immense mass of scattered information which would, probably, have never otherwise seen the light. We had the less compunction at committing the mild act of piracy involved in appropriating the name and idea, that a personal friend of the writer's family was the originator and first editor of the London paper, and we were secure of his approbation of our effort to become 'a picker-up of unconsidered trifles' in Japan, the valuable part of which might, in time, find their way to his own larger emporium of useful knowledge. And, in reopening the column in this New Series of the *Japan Times*, we commit no great literary fault, as we are now but plagiarizing from ourselves.

In introducing the proposal to our readers in 1865, we wrote:—

"We think that much good may be done here, in the way of collecting information about Japan. Many men know a little about the country, its history, its people and their manners and customs, but no one knows very much. By each contributing his own store to a common bank, he will acquire the right to have his own drafts upon it honoured. This is a kind of exchange in which there is, indeed, no robbery.

"All communications intended for insertion must absolutely be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, whose confidence of course, will be strictly respected. Each 'Query' at least, should carry some distinguishing signature, and the questions should be, generally, confined to Japanese matters."

"We shall be glad to receive either 'Notes' or 'Queries' from Europe or elsewhere."

We cannot aver that our effort was greatly rewarded by success. Our first enquirer asked how the Japanese fishermen caught their fish in the bay, and was, naturally, told—to go and look. Another gentleman sent us a snake found in his garden, (bottled in what the office coolies pronounced to be very good gin) and asked if it was venomous. We informed him that death ensued within 20 minutes after its bite. We got no more questions from this enquirer. Perhaps he found another snake. Then 'Botanicus' wanted to know how to pack bulbs for transport to Europe, which we were fortunately able to answer correctly, having by this time secured the assistance of an editor for the 'Notes and Queries' column who knew much more about bulbs than we knew about snakes. But—to the best of our recollection, the few other 'queries' to which 'notes' were appended, until in a few months the thirst for information was assuaged, had to be asked, and appropriate signatures invented for them, after our Editor had written his notes.

This could hardly be considered satisfactory, though fully bearing out our statement that 'many men know a little about the country, but no one knows very much.' But though, in 1865, this was true, it is by no means so now, and if our readers, native and foreign, will help us, there is little doubt that during 1878 we may get together a very respectable mass of information on various subjects. Queries may be asked, or notes in reply sent, in any language, and we will charge ourselves with appending translations; and should it appear worth while, we will, at the end of the year, collect, and reprint them, or such a selection from them as may appear likely to be useful for future reference.

WE have to note a few changes in commercial firms, such as are usually announced at this period of the year. The dissolution of partnership between Messrs. Strachan and Thomas was made public some days ago: we now note the withdrawal of Mr. J. C. Fraser from the firm which had hitherto existed under his name, in consequence, we hear, of his being admitted a partner in the firm of Messrs. Saunders, Needham & Co., of Liverpool. The business will be carried on in future under the style and title of Mollison, Fraser & Co. consisting of Messrs James P. Mollison, Evan J. Fraser, and George Hamilton. We hear that it is likely that Mr. Evan Fraser will remain in New York, and look after the interests of the house in the States. This will be as much a disappointment to his numerous friends here, who were expecting his early return—as is the abandonment of the hope of seeing Mr. J. C. Fraser out again in Japan, now compulsory on the few old residents left, who remember his having, amongst the 'last generation' the same popularity enjoyed by his brother in the present.

Messrs. Findlay, Richardson & Co. announce the admission of Mr. R. E. Findlay into their firm on the 9th of August last:—Mr. Arnold Wolff is gazetted into Messrs. Siber and Brennwald and Mr. P. A. Ramee out of that of Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co. We do not hear of any changes or promotions in the staffs of the Banks.

IT is hardly necessary for us to say that we have received the news of the amalgamation of the Yokohama Race Club, and the Yokohama Racing Association, into the YOKOHAMA JOCKEY CLUB, with unamalgamated satisfaction: and we are sure that the whole community share our sentiments. Twelve days' racing in the year have been too many, the race holidays have quite lost the character, and significance, and value, which they used to have; racing has been almost made a business: and—worst of all—that part of our community which takes an interest in sport,—including almost the entire British section of it—has been divided into two almost hostile camps, sallying out on each other, in spring and autumn, with hard words, unfounded slanders, and unjust suspicions: and during the rest of the year preserving but an armed neutrality. One of the most difficult tasks before us when we determined to revive the *Japan Times* (which under the sporting Editorship of a former sub-editor of *Bell's Life*, used to be the great authority on racing in Yokohama), was to decide under which king a Bezonian was to take service. Happily the necessity of choice is spared to us, and we can

address ourselves with an equal mind, to the task of recording the events of better race meetings than Yokohama has ever seen yet. With the strength of the stables of both associations united, and recruited by the addition of the new Japanese candidates for the honours of the Yokohama turf, Yokohama should be now able to show sport inferior to none in the East. At the meeting held last Saturday at the International Hotel, a Committee was selected by ballot which includes men of both the old parties, and likely, we think to give us a good programme for the Spring Meeting of 1878. We presume that they have power to add to their number, they would do well to invite some Japanese gentleman interested in foreign racing to join them.

We shall await with considerable interest the publication of their Rules and, especially, how they intend to treat the Lottery Question. The Double Selling Lottery was adopted in China and transplanted hither, originally from India; where it was worked very successfully. It has not thrived here, because its introducers omitted the most important safeguard from chicanery:—that no owner could scratch a horse he had allowed to be put up at, and bought in, a Club Lottery. But in a Note like this, we have not space to discuss so important a subject.

The following gentlemen were elected the Committee of the new Club:—Messrs. Keswick, Fischer, Allen, Evers, Fraser, Cruickshank, Montbel, Center, A. Barnard, Kirkwood, and De Boinville.

THAT Captain Brinkley should have consented to contribute to these columns his interesting work, the "Times of Taiko" is a piece of good fortune on which we and our readers may exchange congratulations. The few pieces written by his graceful pen, which he has permitted to appear in the columns of the local Press, have always stimulated the hope that he would give us something more; and this hope is now to be realized in the publication of the work, of which the first instalment is printed to-day, and of which the successive chapters will appear, weekly, in following numbers of the *Japan Times*. From the specimen presented to day, it will at once be seen that this is no bald translation from a single Japanese document, but that each legend selected by the author is used as a foundation, on which he raises, superstructure of carefully collected archaeological and historical studies drawn from various sources. The fault of all similar work that has been hitherto produced has been, either that it has been wholly imaginative, or too drily literal. We expect from Capt. Brinkley's book both instruction and amusement.

SUCH 'extracts' as we shall select to give to our readers will be mostly of a graver character than that which we print to-day; since we must not forget the necessity of making 'Commerce' our first care. But at Christmas time, when we can make holiday for a while, something lighter may be with advantage be used for padding; and we could not have found anything more suitable than this touching little story by James Payn, a contributor for many years to *Chambers' Magazine*. We take it from a volume of his writings, lately published by Messrs. Chatto and Windus, Piccadilly, entitled 'Halves'—the title of the longest piece in the collection; and if the perusal of 'Children I have Met' sends any of them to the book itself, or induces them to send for the book;—we can guarantee them against disappointment. The bulk is fully up to the muster we have culled.

THE new bridge over the Rokugo, on the line between Yokohama to Tokio, which has been recently opened for traffic, has hardly received the attention its completion deserved, as a fine piece of engineering work constructed under considerable difficulties. The Japanese Board of Works are to be congratulated on this improvement of their short metropolitan line, and the work should go far to establish the reputation of Mr. T. Shann, the young engineer who had charge of the works, and who also constructed a similar bridge over the Kanzaki on the Hiogo and Osaka line. But these are comparative trifles in engineering, as the Japanese will probably learn when a trunk line is run through their difficult, volcanic country. In a recent number of the *Graphic* is an engraving of the longest railway bridge yet built, and, considering the tremendous difficulties which had to be overcome in secur-

ing a sufficient foundation, while preserving intact the value of the river as a tideway navigable for ships of large burthen, also one of the cheapest. We refer to the bridge across the river Tay, connecting Fife with Forfarshire, and supplying a long wanted link between the North British and Caledonian lines of railway. It is especially this quality of its utility, apart from its magnitude, and the novelty and ingenuity of the means employed in its erection, which gives it rank with the most interesting civil engineering works ever carried to completion. Since the town of Dundee has grown to its present manufacturing importance, the great want of a bridge to connect the existing North British Railway system in Fife directly with the town of Dundee, had been severely felt. Previously, the whole of the coal, goods, and passenger traffic, coming by the North British line, had to be conveyed across in steamers to Tay Port, and thence over the Caledonian Railway to Dundee, involving not only great expense for maintenance, but frequent delays from the enormous accession of traffic, and the stormy winter weather. The Tay is a river navigable for ships of considerable burthen up as far as Perth, and broadens rapidly between Perth and Dundee until it expands into an estuary, the Firth of Tay, opening directly, without any protection from island, cape, or headland, into the turbulent German Ocean; so that the carriage of goods and passengers across the ferry was always inconvenient, frequently dangerous, and occasionally impossible.

The bridge crosses the river about one and a quarter miles west of Dundee, and connects, on the south side, with the main North British line near Leuchars, a pretty village remarkable for an ancient Norman Church, and with the town of Dundee, on the north side, by a short piece of line and tunnel running alongside the river and docks. The Tay Bridge will be the means of bringing the enormous coal-fields of Fifeshire into direct communication with Dundee, adding very much to the importance of the latter as a shipping port. During the Crimean war, when our trade with Russia was interrupted, hemp—the raw material on which then chiefly depended the manufactures of Dundee—could not be got from her, and its place was largely supplied by the then novel substitute of jute, from our own Indian possessions. This traffic with India has since grown to large proportions, the trade never having returned wholly from the groove into which our quarrel with Russia had forced it. But the jute ships, outward bound, took coal and iron to India; and the Fifeshire coal not being accessible, in consequence of the gap in the railway communication between Fife and Dundee, caused by the Firth of Tay, they have hitherto had to go from Dundee in ballast, to load at Newcastle. This will all, now, be changed; and the importance of the bridge to Dundee cannot fail to be very great.

The total length of the bridge from shore to shore is 10 320 feet. It comprises eighty-nine spans, fourteen of which cross the navigable channel of the river, and are of 200 feet each. Commencing on the south, or Fifeshire, side, the rails are 78 feet above high water, and run upon the tops of the girders. When the 200 feet spans are reached, they run over these on the bottoms of the girders, thus giving a clear headway of 88ft. above high water; the greatest altitude. On reaching the 120ft. spans on the north side, the rails are again on the top of the girders, which are continued, with the exception of a 160ft. bow string span to the north shore.

The piers, with the exception of a few near the shore, are iron cylinders filled in with concrete, and the method of placing these in position, excavating beneath them, and so finally fixing them, was very novel and ingenious, and interesting here, as contrasting with the plan adopted by the engineers of the Imperial Japanese Railways, who had no such river as the Tay to cross. The piers, in pairs, were built on the fore-bore and, connected so that they presented the appearance of gigantic opera-glasses, were floated out, between pontoons, into the positions required, and then gradually lowered, until they just rested on the bed of the river. How this was done it is almost impossible to describe without the use of technical language hardly intelligible to any but a professional reader: the means employed were chains, let out link by link, the piers being meanwhile kept in equilibrium by the aid of hydraulic rams on each of the pontoons. Then commenced the work of excavation, and this is the point to

which we would especially call attention, as contrasting with the system employed by Mr. Shann. It is specially adapted to rivers with strong currents, and with little soil, (in some places in the Tay, only 4 feet) overlying a rocky bed. He, having a loose sandy or muddy bottom to pierce to a considerable depth, but with no such current to combat as in the Tay, was able to build up his piers from the bed of the river to the surface, within the ordinary form of caisson, and then carried out successive rings of brickwork, or iron, and placed them one on the top of the other, excavating within the tube, and then, weighting it at top, driving it down to a sound foundation. But the engineers of the Tay bridge had to adopt a different plan. They placed an air-bell on the top of each of their piers, and then pumped in air, until the water was driven out, and prevented from returning below, by the increased weight of the atmosphere within the tube. The workmen, being then introduced, worked dry on the bed of the river; and, when they had dug or cut away the river bed to such a depth that the air-bell on the top was near the surface of the water it was, if a greater depth had to be attained, removed, and an additional length of cylinder added to that already sunk. And, the air-bell being replaced, the work proceeded as before, until a sufficient depth being attained to ensure the steadiness of the piers, they were filled up with brickwork and concrete, and the workmen passed on to another pair of piers.

The superstructure, on which the permanent way is placed, consists of the ordinary lattice girders, continuous over four spans, each set being provided with its own fixed and expansion bearings.

The above sketch is necessarily a mere outline, and 'popular' in the extreme. Those of our Japanese readers who are sufficiently interested in the work to wish to know more of it in detail, will find an excellent technical description of it in the *Engineer* for April 1873. The writer went over the works with the contractor in October of that year, when they were very little farther advanced than as they appear in the sketches in the *Engineer*. A similar bridge is projected now to cross the Forth, and when that is done, the railway system of Great Britain may almost be considered complete, as continuous lines can be run from the extreme south to the farthest north of the islands.

The bridge was carried out from the designs of Mr. Thomas Bouch, C. E. the engineer of the North British Railway; the foundation-stone having been laid July 1, 1871. The whole of the work was undertaken in the first place by Messrs C. de Bergue and Co. of London and Manchester, for the sum of £217,000, but the total cost has reached close upon £350,000, the final contractors being Messrs. Hopkiss, Gilkes & Co. of Middlesbrough.

AMONG the imperfections of this first number is most palpable the bad arrangement of our type. Many of these Notes would have found their proper place in our Summary of the week's News. And many items of news have to be altogether omitted: as also tabular statements, statistics, and some advertisements. And all for want of type. Our generous friends of the *Gazette* have given us 'all they had—they can no more'—and, having failed to supply our needs from Shanghai or Hongkong, we are much in the position of a father when a welcome little stranger makes its appearance unexpectedly, and there are no baby clothes ready. A *layette* would be easily enough got in London or New York, or any other large city: here we have only to hope that its friends will have regard rather to the promise of vigour shown by the infant, than to imperfections in the bibs and tuckers in which he makes his appearance.

The following TELEGRAMS have been received during the week, up to the time of our going to press.

London, December 27th, 1877.

The Emperor of Russia, in replying to an address from his subjects, said he considered that there remained yet much to be done, but that he hoped Russia would accomplish her mission.

The Servian troops have captured Appalanka, Lescovats, and Kurshumlie, and after eight hours, heavy fighting crossed into Moravia, where they succeeded in taking Pennella (P) and Nish.

The bombardment of Erzeroum is imminent.

London, December 29th, 1877.

Despatches report that the Servian troops have effected a junction with Russian forces, and are marching on Sophia. At St. Petersburg it is semi-officially stated that, at the opening of the British Parliament, the Porte will be encouraged to offer all resistance, and thus compel Russia to march on Constantinople.

London, December 30th, 1877.

The Sultan of Turkey has solicited the mediation of the British Government with the Emperor of Russia, which the British Government has consented to accept.

Austria has warned Servia not to carry the war into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

London, 1st January, 1878.

The Channel Squadron has been ordered to hold itself in readiness for sea, and the 90th Light Infantry Regiment is to proceed to Cape Colony.

The British troops have crossed the River Kei into Kaffaria.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

WHEN the conductor of this journal, in evil case in body and in mind, depressed by the pain of a serious illness, and mortified at the failure of a long-cherished hope, laid down his tired pen, and ceded his property to other hands, it was stipulated that announcement should be made of the transfer. Taking as a text the chant of the gladiator: 'Morituri te Salutant' he therefore took formal leave of his readers in an epilogue, in which piece occurred the following passage:—

"The summary of the fortnight's news, always the work of the same hand, has, to the writer's fancy, been as a letter home; and many a household word, many a sly allusion, has been meant for some one or other of the fast dropping band of old home friends. It has been a steadily recurring pleasure to watch carefully, and to try to describe, pleasantly or gravely, as the time and subject asked, always faithfully and conscientiously, 'Our Life in Japan,' as at least one exile viewed it. It cannot be thought strange that he lingers lovingly over these last lines, as the old familiar faces rise and fade again before his blurred and dimming eyes."

After ten or twelve years of residence in the East, the homeward-bound traveller returns to the land of his birth to find many of his fancies false, many of his illusions dispelled. The companions of his youth have suffered a change of a different sort to that which he has felt. Much of what he has learnt has no value in their eyes, and memories which to him are bright and clear, have to him become dulled, obscure and faint. The last chapter of his home life closed, for him, with the exciting incident of his departure. To that point all the story retains, for him, a sharp outline and vivid colouring; and he is ready to take up the old companionship, where it was wrenched apart, to resolder the old union of hearts and interest, and feeling; to live out, as far as it be possible, the remainder of the tale. But they—they have formed new ties, are moving in new grooves; new characters have been introduced for them into the plot; they have but the dimmest recollection of the incidents of his departure, and seem to have to struggle against a feeling of almost resentment against his coming back. As with the Uncommercial Traveller, when he revisits Dullborough, and tells the little greengrocer that he had left the town when a child—and the unsoftened greengrocer slowly returns 'Had he? Ah! and did he find it had got on tolerably well without him?' he feels he has no right to be angry with them for their want of interest. He has become nothing to them, whereas they are 'the town, the cathedral, the bridge, the river, his childhood and a large slice of his life' to him. So the best advice to give to a man who has spent much of his life in the East, is that which Mr. Wemmick gave to Pip, on a certain memorable occasion:—"Don't go home!"

Still, life's hard truths would be unbearable without the softening graces of fancy; and, returning to the East, the exile willingly again submits his mind to the glamour of imagination. The cordiality of the welcome back to the home of his manhood has thawed from his heart the chill of his reception in the home of his youth. Some one, too, perhaps, has been faithful found to the traditions he cherished; and for him he can revive the old correspondence and with him again interchange the kindly recollections of the past. So, therefore, in this special column, we shall ask the same indulgence as of old—to say truth, shall take it; and having done our duty to our readers in discussing weightier matters in other columns of the paper in more serious fashion, shall write in this of lighter topics, without ceremony, and more for our own amusement than for any one else's instruction.

Japan has, as a place of residence, greatly changed for the worse since '65, and we have changed with it; for

'Grizzling hair the brain doth clear;
'Then you know the worth of a lass,
'Then you know that a boy is an ass,
'Wait till! you come to forty year!'

But though we don't make money as easily as we did—and so have it not to spend so gaily, cakes and ale have not altogether lost their savour, and the best to be done with the hard times is to make the best of them. Advice which has been pretty generally acted upon during the festive season which closed 1877 and ushered in 1878. The fun began with a children's party and a magnificent Christmas Tree, at the Gaiety Theatre, got up and presided over, as usual, by the gentleman who, one of the 'oldest residents' of Yokohama, retains his suffix of 'Junior,' probably to keep himself on a level with the successive generations of little children who know him as their kind and constant friend. The only thing wanting on this occasion was the presence of that ancient mariner who yearly takes the part of Santa Claus, but was, unfortunately, prevented by illness from filling his usual place. (We are glad to take the opportunity, by the way, of wishing him success in his new enterprise, recently advertised, of entertaining children of a larger growth.) As evening closed in, the firm on which in so great measure rests the whole responsibility of Christmas entertainments being successful, illuminated their shop, which had been, during the day, elaborately and tastefully dressed with evergreens; gothic arches of bamboo towering high above the roof, with, snugly ensconced in niches of fir and holly and other evergreens below,—not the cold sculptured forms of ascetic saint or martyred virgin,—but the plump, wholesome, well-fed carcases of fat bees, enormous pigs, gigantic turkeys and other Christmas dinners in the rough, while across the street swung their effigies painted on lanterns by a cunning hand, all carrying Messrs. Domoney & Co.'s cheerful motto:—
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.'

And the architect had an artist's eye, and the soul of a poet; instanced by one master stroke it would be sinful to pass unnoticed. In one recess, he had placed a group—beautiful in its simplicity, most touching in its pathos. There, on the bosom of its mother,—a blossom untimely cropped—reposed an infantile sucking pig. And some tender hand had lovingly shrouded its form with what looked like a kerchief of costly lace, but was, in truth, the fry! This last touch of sentiment was too much: a faint perfume of sage seemed wafted towards us, and a crackling sound, as of the snapping of thin ice: with a tear in our eye, and water in our mouth,—we turned away.

Another example of that pretty Christmas house warmer, which we owe to Germany—the Christmas Tree—was appropriately lit at the German Club at half-past ten, and around it the members of the Club gave a warm welcome to their guests; and then, as midnight approached, the bell of the Roman Catholic church sounded the note that calls all Christians to rejoice over the birth of Christ, and welcomes all, of every creed, to share in the benefits of the 'Messe de Noel.' The edifice was most tastefully decorated, inside and out,—the facade being illuminated by a transparency showing the silver Star of Bethlehem, shining over the joyful words 'Verbum caro factum est,' while the invocation to worship: 'Christus Natus est: Venite, Adoremus!' adorned the gateway on either side. Within, masses of flowers, festoons of greenery and myriads of tapers adorned the building, which was crowded to overflowing by worshippers of many sects and races. The ceremony was rendered more imposing by the presence of the Bishop of the diocese. While the robing took place, the Allegretto from Mendelssohn's Symphony to the Lobgesang was played. The piece had been arranged by one of our local friends for Violin, Violoncello, Piano, and Harmonium. The instruments (all in careful hands) blended perfectly, giving the effect of a small orchestra, and the result was excellent, the only thing to be desired was a little more in quantity, the ceremony occupying a much longer time than the music prepared for. The occasion. The mass was performed under the direction of Herr Keil by a picked choir of male voices—the music chosen being

"Gounod in G," originally written for the superb Parisian choir known as "les Orpheonistes." The accompaniment was arranged also for Piano, Harmonium, Violoncello, and received due justice at the hands of the various performers. The Violin part was sadly needed, and we understand was prepared, but the player was unfortunately too ill to appear. The whole Mass was very well rendered, and produced a good effect, albeit the music is not especially suited to a bright festival occasion, and in some parts is decidedly lugubrious. Exception should be given to the "Gloria—Sanctus" and the "O Salutaris"; this last movement with the Cello obligato, was really enchanting, the finished cantabile of the instrument greatly enhancing the effect. During the offertory, one of our lady amateurs sang Gounod's "Ave Maria," founded on the First prelude of Bach; again the Violoncello playing was a special feature, and we hope for the pleasure of hearing this esteemed virtuoso yet more often. After the Mass, was sung Adam's Noel, for Bass, Solo, and Chorus, the whole service coming to an end at nearly two o'clock by the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel, given by harmonium alone.

Again, some of the same performers, reinforced by about a dozen ladies, appeared at the English Church on Christmas morning, for the usual service. Here, again, was a wealth of floral and other decoration, hiding the architectural hideousness of the structure, and thus making it possible for a worshipper, afflicted with a knowledge of Gothic, to enjoy our beautiful ritual. On this occasion, there was nothing beyond the usual Morning service of the Established Church. The Hymns and Canticles were sung to well-known tunes, which long practice has rendered familiar to the choir, and all were given with that aplomb and precision which only long practice can give. The Anthem was finely sung to the setting by Sir John Gos of the Angel's song in Luke II. 'Behold I bring you glad tidings' &c.

We hear that the long dormant Choral Society is about to be revived. We can only say that, judging from the above specimens to Choral singing, we have here ample material for a most successful Society. Certainly, for the size of the settlement, there is a most plentiful supply of available musical talent, both vocal and instrumental, and we see no reason why we should not be treated to as good music as falls to the lot of any settlement in the East. We bid the reviving society a cordial welcome and trust that under proper direction we may receive much musical pleasure at its hands.

The festival decorations in vogue among the Japanese have lately been so well described by Mrs. Ayrton in a paper read before the Asiatic Society, that it would be mere impertinence to go over the same ground. The weather has been so dismally inclement, too, that few foreigners have seen the Japanese street ornamentation on this occasion, except the few whose business has compelled them to go through the village of Honmura or as far the Railway Station. To many strangers on their first arrival in Japan, this village of Honmura gives their first glimpse of native life. Here may be found representatives of nearly every trade in the country, and as from their proximity to the foreign settlement, the inhabitants, for several years, have driven a profitable trade, they have thriven fast, and can well afford to spend a little money on any day of rejoicing, though they seem to care but little about the appearance of their houses at any other time, these remaining as dirty and squalid a set of hovels as ever. But at New Year, the whole aspect of the village is changed. Waving plumes of the graceful bamboo, with the Okazari and Kadomatsu (straw and fir branch ornaments) deck each house, together producing such a pretty effect that one could wish the decoration perpetual. Passing on across the creek into the native town of Yokohama, the same ornamentation is seen, though not so plentiful as in Honmura. Still the New Year is everywhere acknowledged, and no house seems so poor but does it reverence, even if only by a bunch of Kado-matsu. And so along the banks of the canal to the Railway station, where, perhaps the best single piece of decoration in the native town is to be found, a large evergreen arch leading to the Goods department with flowers and berries interlaced, the crown surmounted by the Railway and Government flags. The five arches leading to the station are prettily decorated, but the effect is heavy. The entrance to the Lighthouse Department at Bente is handsomely decorated with about two tempos' worth of faded matsu. The Railway Hotel by Hotsu and the native Banks in the neighbourhood are all decked out with good taste and pretty effect. The "Nisaro" European dining rooms, corner of Basa-michi and Go-chome deserves to be well mentioned; everything here is neat and in good taste, the same may be said as to the inside of the house, not forgetting the eatables; Musashiya's curio-store and Shobei's silk-store in the Honcho-dori are in gay holiday attire, the Post Office, Town, Hall and Telegraph offices are all decorated with great care, good effect and seemingly at no little cost. The entrance to the Custom-House has a cheap tawdry coloured paper and straw device, with a temporary water proof covering over it of more value than the decora-

tion; while on either side, are long lines of goods carts, locked together, and all decorated with strings of the Okazari.

Disappointing as was the miserable weather to hundreds, the streets of course had a lonely appearance on New-Year's day. The only tradesmen who kept open shop were the barbers, whose calling, allows them to take but two holidays in each year, on the 17th of the 1st month and on the 17th of the 7th month. But rain, however disagreeable, does not interfere seriously with "New Year" celebrations in Japan; the disposition of the people being to make light of misfortune and it being presumable that they are accustomed to their own climate.

That sordid want of type which occasionally vexes public printers compels us, here, to close abruptly these Notes of the Week. We leave many incidents unnoticed, some are recorded in other columns. We throw ourselves on the indulgence of our readers and promise better behaviour for the future.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

[Social grades, mutually so far removed that might and right sank utterly confounded in the intervals; multitudes of petty principalities, each wrapped in its own selfish majesty, almost to the exclusion of any common ray of patriotism; a creed of feudal fidelity that swayed the mind of the whole nation more powerfully than the instincts of love or life; and a civilization refined to subtilty, but passionately cherishing models of martial strength, and always recalled from the brink of effeminacy by the slogan of war, or the call of ambition;—in such a setting one might well look to find many a gem of chivalry and heroism.

And such are there in profusion! Japan, as we see it now, reflects but in a few things the Japan of former days. Its shores have been touched by an eastward-setting stream, chilled by the hard glaciers of social and commercial principles, and so swollen by steadily falling drops of truth and science, that—alas! alas!—the dear old ruins are tottering and falling, one by one.

The object of the following pages is to restore some of these while there is yet time.

The task is not altogether an easy one. Such annals as one finds at hand are for the most part very skeletons, often imperfect, and sometimes enclosed in elfin or unearthly crypts, difficult to demortoise or penetrate; while from scarcely any library, can one obtain material sufficient to clothe the dry bones in half the brave equipage of flesh and beauty, raiment and armour, of the times wherein they lived and moved.

But fortunately there still exists in Japan a class of men pre-eminently the best narrators in the world. Without disguise or garniture, their only accessories a desk, a fan and a rapper, these living chronicles carry their breathless audiences back to the days of the 'ancients of the earth,' and reproduce moods and feats that are fast lapsing into the land of fable. Nor are these men romancers: they never improvise beyond an allusion or an urbanity, and their materials are found in manuscripts handed down from father to son, and jealously guarded as sources of livelihood.

These records, and their less ornate brethren, the writer has endeavoured to fuse into forms faithful to the truth, hoping always that no unguent of the perhaps too easily rolling social wheel of Old Japan may prove unsavoury to western senses.]

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter I. THE BELLS.

MOVED by the many orisons of Horikawa, the Gods seemed at last to have willed healing for his son Shirakawa; who, wearied and wasted by three months of intermittent fever, slept now quietly and healthfully in his palace, Seiriyoden, at Kioto.

The three rooms forming a *suite*, in the most southerly of which the Emperor lay, had been known during the three centuries of their existence as the *Leopodasa*, the

Steed, and the Elf galleries, for on the silk arras of the first were depicted groups of "hagi" flowers, from the weakest bud to the lustiest blossom; on those of the second, droves of horses, in every conceivable attitude of action or repose, and on those of the third, bands of elves from the "Island of the long-fingered and ample-footed," elves whose span measured their stature and the impress of whose feet marked the compass of their graves. The legends of the palace related that the decorations of these arras had cost their several artists a decade of years, and that when, being completed, the doors that hid them from each other were for the first time opened, the whole multitude of horses, leaping from the tapestry, were on the point of devouring the *le-pedeza*. When the elves, hastening after them, drove them back with kicks of their vast feet; since which time the horses from their places had quietly gazed at the flowers, and the elves, from theirs, guarded the horses.

Separated from this part of the palace by a court-yard some ten paces wide, were the quarters of the chamberlains, and stretched behind these, a cord of purple silk led from the veranda of the Elf gallery to a peal of silver bells, sheltered under the eaves of the chief Chamberlain's office.

Near the Emperor's couch his favorite wife, Atsuko, sat watching. Some instinct of love, more prescient than the judgment of the court physicians, marred her share in the general rejoicing, and held her still to her post; though indeed all cause for anxiety about the sick man's health seemed to have been removed. Her watch was shared by two of her attendants; fair young girls of fifteen and sixteen, of whom one was engaged in fanning the Emperor, while the other performed a similar office, sometimes for the Empress, sometimes for herself.

It was autumn. The voices of the ceaseless insects sounded like the echoes of a giant harp, and a listless wind shook the bells of the iris, and gathered the breath of the half-opened lotus.

On two sides of the room occupied by the watchers and the watched, were hung curtains of glossy white flax, plaited, twisted and knotted into a thousand fantastic tassels and interstices, across which the setting sun stretched his arms to within a span of the bronze lions guarding the southern exit of the chamber. Every sound within human control was hushed, and the palace lay buried in a silence deep as the lull between the throes of a mighty hurricane.

Slowly, the sun passed below the summit of the cedar wood, and an infant moon creeping timidly in his wake, laid her silver fingers for a moment on the still warm traces of his footsteps. But Shirakawa slept always the same motionless slumber.

The night lamps had been lit and twice trimmed, the clang of the watchman's staff had twice rung up from the distant streets, and the two handmaidens, with heads drooped upon their bosoms, had forgotten the daylight and their duties. But the Empress sat, wakeful and anxious, watching the fire-flies flit past the meshes of the flax, and listening to the Emperor's quiet breathing in the pauses of the cicada's drone. A strange feeling of agitation, at first undefined, but growing with the growth of the hours, sometimes made the inaction of her vigil almost insupportable, and at others, led her away into a mystery of forebodings, than which any reality had been more welcome. At one moment the throbbing of her heart seemed to measure the march of some vast catastrophe, and at another, its sudden quiet startled her into a selfish terror, that obscured the consciousness of everything but her solitude and the darkness.

Atsuko, as was the wont of noble ladies a thousand years ago, had spent many a morning in the fencing school and many an afternoon on the jousting green, and reputation gave her one of the firmest wrists and truest lances of her compeers, though in truth the delicate and dream like grace of her beauty, without one emphatic limb or lineament, made all this, unseen, difficult of credence. She was, therefore, as little prone to fear as any woman, and yet she found herself more fearful than most women have ever been, and apparently with less reason; for even the languid breeze had breathed its last, the shadow of the lotus lay motionless on the lake, the sobbing of the waterfall had subsided into a long unvaried whisper, and nothing was abroad but universal rest.

And indeed she had almost reasoned herself into some feeling of reassurance, when from the court-yard that lay

beyond the Elf gallery, suddenly and sharply the sound of the silver bells came hurrying across the silence—the silver bells that were only accessible from the Elf gallery, into the gloom of which, barely broken by one solitary lamp, Atsuko had at that very moment been gazing.

She sprang to her feet, every nerve in her body thrilling with terror and astonishment. Had the elves trailed their huge feet from the tapestry, or the *hagi* flowers again tempted the horses into action, or the flax festoons wreathed themselves into a coil of snakes, or the demons on the doors of the Emperor's dining room rolled their red eyes and mowed their frightful faces into life,—any of these things had been less startling, since their possibility had been often present to her fancy: but that the bells, the soft-voiced bells, hid away under the shadow of the eaves and silent until now for three months, should violate the night at such a moment and with so disordered a sound! The thing was so marvellous and so unreasonable, that it paralysed the power of thought, and for a second Atsuko stood spell-bound. But the next, she was suddenly aware that the Emperor's quiet breathing had been replaced by gasps and panting. His limbs tossed uneasily, an expression of pain and horror contorted and pinched his features, while with his arms he pushed and wrestled against some presence that seemed to haunt him.

In a moment Atsuko had roused her maids and sprung to the sick man's side. Doctors, attendants, chamberlains, hastily summoned, hurried in from here and there, and after a time the chief physician himself arrived, but nothing brought the Emperor relief, and stranger still, nothing could rouse him from the slumber that seemed to have been visited by so terrible a nightmare: a very mockery of sleep indeed, real in no item, save the victim's unconsciousness; but yet a sleep that defied all efforts to disturb it. Minute after minute, the arms toiled, and the fingers grappled, with the inaccessible horror, while in measure as the muscles lost their force, the breathing became more painful, and the expression of the features more agonized. Atsuko hid her face and felt that her vague fear had been a thousand times better than this fearful reality.

This condition lasted for about an hour, after which it disappeared almost as quickly as it had come. The Emperor, opening his eyes, raised himself for a second from his pillow, and gazed anxiously towards the Elf gallery; then he laid down his head, and sank into a deep sleep, which continued unbroken till three hours after sunrise, and relieved all fear of any fresh access of fever.

Nevertheless it became apparent, as the day wore on, that this promise of convalescence was yielding to a mood of despondent lethargy. So far as speech or action was concerned, no evidence of any fresh mischief appeared; but his attendants remarked that the sick man's eye was tenanted by a look of fear entirely foreign to his character, and that every sound whose origin lay beyond the reach of his immediate observation, produced a dilation of his pupils and a visible tremor of his muscles. These symptoms, developing themselves more strongly towards evening, the conviction was forced upon the physicians that their patient's malady had entered a phase inaccessible to any trivial treatment, and they finally judged it necessary to try to obtain some account of his state from his own lips.

It was not without considerable hesitation that they determined to adopt this course; for there are certain conditions of mental disquiet whose aspect, while awakening sympathy, forbids intrusion; and all those who had access to the Emperor's side that day, felt instinctively that the judgment of the sufferer had done well in drawing a veil over the nature of his suffering. It was to Atsuko therefore that the chief physician addressed himself, and explaining the necessity for some new course of treatment, whether moral or physical, begged her to undertake the task of questioning the sick man.

Atsuko's noble devotion did not allow her to hesitate for a moment. Kneeling by the silk cushions on which the Emperor lay, she bowed her head to the ground and in a soft voice asked Shirakawa how he felt? The Emperor did not immediately reply, but stretching out his hand, placed it gently under Atsuko's forehead, and she, raising herself, saw indeed his wan face and the marvellously emaciated fingers that now rested on her own, but saw too in his eyes that look of strong love, at which the soul of a woman glows like a cascade in a rainbow.

"Atsuko," said the sick man, "will you watch by me to-night?"

"Yes, Sire," she replied, "I was here all last night."

"You were here last night," cried the Emperor, his face assuming an expression of anxious enquiry,—“then, Atsuko, who rang the bells?”

Had then the tone of those bells, soft and undecided as it was, been able to penetrate a slumber so deathlike that nothing human could disturb it? Already the daylight and the distance of the event had half obliterated its impression, and Atsuko remembering how that one peal had come without a jar or jangle, and passed away without the faintest resonance, was beginning to persuade herself that the whole idea might have visited her in a moment of sleep. But now she saw the reality established by evidence from its very nature unassailable. She did not know what to answer. A moment's hesitation admitted her knowledge of the circumstance as well as her ignorance of the cause, and she could only murmur:—

"Sire, I do not know."

"But you heard them ring, Atsuko?"

"Yes, Sire, I thought I did."

"You thought truly. Then, Atsuko, try to find out why they ring to-night, and remember that I who ask you have borne you no common love."

Saying this, Shirakawa withdrew his hand, and turned his face away. Atsuko waited for several moments, hoping he would speak again, but finding that she waited in vain, rose at last reluctantly, and returned to her seat beside the lions, her senses half bewildered and the vague pain of her midnight vigil revived. She felt that something, against which neither the craft of medicine nor the care of love could prevail, had thrust itself between the conception and consummation of her hopes. Yesterday, all had been promise, to-day all was solicitude. She did not much grieve that she had failed to elicit anything which might guide the physicians, for she knew, though she shrank from the admission, that the case lay beyond the reach of their art.

Brief and trivial however as was the story she had to tell them, when they assembled in consultation shortly afterwards, her report of the Emperor's questions and injunction produced a strong sensation; for rumour had long attributed Shirakawa's illness to causes more than human. They decided therefore to lose no time in consulting the Emperor's father.

Horikawa had but just returned to the palace. He had set out the previous forenoon, to return thanks to the God *IZANAMI*, whose shrine lay twenty miles distant among the mountains. Both in going and coming, he had stopped to watch the blue-backed minnows dart across the gold sands of the Takajima river, and on each occasion he had seen nothing but the image of a black cloud, which seemed to travel home with him to the very gates. He arrived therefore with a foreboding of the circumstances he found, and having heard the chief physician's report, immediately declared his intention of keeping watch in the Elf gallery himself that night.

The day died uneasily. Enormous billows of murky clouds rolled up to meet the sinking sun, and the lightning brisling on their crests almost destroyed the darkness. Rain, falling at first in solitary drops, was presently dashed against the walls of the palace by a wind that rushed up from the distance with a sound like the roar of an earthquake; yet the Emperor fell again into a heavy sleep, while his father and Atsuko watched beside the veranda that looked out on the court-yard of the bells.

Midway between the hours of the "Ox" and the "Tiger" (about 2 P.M.) on the preceding night, the sick man had experienced the first access of his new suffering; and as the time drew near, Atsuko felt herself again lapsing into a condition of uneasy dread. Looking at Horikawa she thought that the uncertain lamplight showed his features wearing a shadow of similar misgiving, and that, like herself, he waited, rather than watched.

The storm, which since sunset had grown into a giant hurricane, was at that moment perfectly still—a stillness that presaged its advent with fresh fury from another quarter—and only the crowing of the cocks replaced its sullen voice. But when it leaped up again, half a bow's bend farther to the East, so terrible was the first throb of its force that the two watchers involuntarily turned their heads towards its coming; and in that second, ere the glance of either could recover the court-

yard or the eaves, the bells had sounded and ceased. Horikawa, calling for lights, sprang from the portico only to find that the wind, eddying round an angle of the building shook the tassels of the bell rope, and hurled amongst the bells fragments of shingle from the gate's roof, while Atsuko hurrying to the Emperor's room, found him again tortured by his invisible enemy.

On this occasion the attack was both longer and more violent, and the Emperor awoke next day so faint and broken that the result of such another seizure admitted of no doubt. For the first time since the commencement of his illness three months before, Atsuko's fortitude entirely forsook her. She sat in the shadow of the lions, her face buried in her hands and the burning tears welling through her fingers.

It was then that Horikawa resolved to abandon both medicine and prayer, and commit the salvation of his son to whatever Japan possessed of martial prowess. He believed that three things stood between well-being and the influence of evil; the will of the gods, integrity of life, and a brave heart. He saw that all his services and applications had failed to merit the aid of heaven, and he acknowledged that his own or his son's blamelessness must be measured by the issue of this malady. Moreover, tradition had handed down a story of a death in the Imperial family under similar circumstance, concerning which the wisdom of the godlike anchorite Kibi had declared, that the evil was "begotten of guile and bred by the lack of a strong man." It only remained therefore to choose between Ishikawa Goyemon and Minamoto Yoshiie, two knights whose fames had travelled abreast from end to end of Japan.

Ishikawa's skill as an archer was so marvellous that fables said he had once aimed at and brought down an erolite; and it was well known how with four arrows at his belt he had ridden out alone to the "Hill of the seven faces," and shot dead the four chiefs of the mountain banditti, as they galloped up the ridge to attack him. Minamoto's renown rested rather on his skill as a leader than on his individual prowess, though of his fortitude it was reported that demons had failed to shake it. For, when his life was ebbing out through a spear thrust, received in battle with the rebel Takehira, his spirit, travelling to the other world, had seen his body delivered over to be tortured for ever by the ghosts of the men whose lives he had compassed in fight. Rolled all night upon a hedge of barbed spikes, heated so that his flesh hissed as they pierced it, he had struggled by day in a sea of boiling salt, while ghoulies, throwing harpoons from the banks, caught up his head lest any lurid wave should smother his suffering. Yet, believing this to be the eternity that awaited him, he had recovered consciousness to record in his death song, that were his life given him again he would not alter it, since duty ought never to halt, though judgment be blind.

Of these two men, Horikawa selected the former. In any other crisis his choice might have been different, but the bow was the weapon of the Gods, and as an archer Goyemon was incomparable.

Ishikawa was just about to set out on a hunting excursion to Lake Omiya, when the Imperial summons reached him. He could scarcely perhaps have conceived anything more improbable for himself than an audience with the ex-emperor; his rank did not entitle him to it, even supposing that any reason were apparent, and, whether for good or evil, the matter was so marvellous that when the third gate of the palace admitted him, scarcely demanding entry, he seemed to his retinue like a man moving in a dream.

He remained for some moments with his head bowed on the threshold of the 'Dragon' chamber, whither the chamberlain had at once conducted him, before a voice, which he recognised as the chief minister's, bade him come forward, and advancing a few paces, he kneeled at the margin of a broad bar of shadow strewn with dancing diamonds of sunlight, the shadow of the wonderful bamboo of Tartary, which had pushed its green head through the snow three hundred and twelve winters before, at the prayer of Kosami, the architect of the palace. Beyond this shadow, Ishikawa saw the chief minister, six knights in waiting seated in rows of three on the right and left, and in the centre the figure of a white-haired man dressed entirely in red silk and regarding him with a look half anxious, half imperious.

"Ishikawa," said the man in red, we have more than once heard of your skill as an archer and of the renown that Japan wins through your deeds. The moment to which your past life has been but the prelude has now come. We congratulate you."

This was uttered deliberately and with several pauses, at each of which Ishikawa raised his forehead a hand's breadth from its position on the mats and bowed. The speaker continued:—

"The Imperial body is tormented by a malady that baffles our physicians, but can, we believe be cured by your aid."

"Sire, my life is His Majesty's," said Ishikawa. Then finding that the silence remained unbroken, he added:—

"But my family has produced no men of talent. We have never achieved more than the very imperfect study of arms, a vassal's first duty, and my ancestors have not transmitted any elixir or medicament that might be of use at this crisis."

"I have just told you that medicine is powerless," answered the ex-Emperor; "the evil spirit by which the Imperial life is threatened comes to you to meet it and drive it away. We have done with oracles and charms, and trust only to the virtue of valour."

Now a hair's breadth might have been of his senses. Evil faith in everything beyond the evidence of his senses, he regarded as the phantasies of imbecility, and in himself credit others with more credulity than he found in his eyes. The command of the ex-Emperor had therefore borne an evil but one issue, his own ruin. Called upon to remain as yet uncertainly existing, by a method which, though his conjectures comprehensible, was surely based on a delusion, he occupied his mind, to the exclusion of any more useful device, as to the author of his impending misfortune. To comply signified failure, to refuse, treason. "Sire," he said, "I am an ignorant man, and altogether unfit to service your Majesty requires. My mean ability cannot even conceive a means of attempting to carry out your wishes. I earnestly pray you therefore to employ some more worthy instrument."

"Ishikawa," cried Yoshifusa, the Chief Minister, in a loud stern voice, "Do you mean to disobey the Imperial commands?"

"Certainly not, your Excellency," answered Goyemon; "but I venture to think that it would be treasonable to charge myself with their execution, knowing that I cannot but fail."

"Your fear of failure comes from the weakness of your loyalty," replied the Chief Minister. "What merit would there be in action, were success certain?"

"True, Your Excellency, but it seems to me that my action were madness where failure is certain. As for my life, that belongs to His Majesty, and I should be glad if he had need of it, but my reputation and the honour of my family belong to the shrines of my ancestors."

"Do you then suffer these selfish motives to precede your obedience?" cried the minister, striking his fan angrily on the ground.

But, before Ishikawa could reply, the ex-Emperor interfered:—

"We have no further need of the man," said he: "let him return and await our pleasure in his own house."

Ishikawa raised his head and walked proudly away. As he received his swords from the chamberlain at the vestibule and replaced them in his girdle, he believed that he did so for the last time, thinking that but a few hours separated him from an enforced death by his own hand. Nevertheless no man discovered a shadow of emotion in his speech or mein.

Two hours afterwards, Minamoto no Yoshiie was admitted to an audience with the ex-Emperor in the same place. It was now past noon, and little space remained to provide against the danger of the coming night. This time the interview was opened by the Chief Minister, who, avoiding all suggestion or command, merely described the circumstances of the Emperor's previous seizures, and hinting at the fear that another might prove fatal, asked Minamoto whether he could form any idea as to the nature of the malady.

Minamoto's creed on the subject of supernatural beings was altogether different from that of Ishikawa. The fearful vision that had visited him in his extremity, though

it could not shake his mind, had never forsaken it. He therefore answered at once that in his opinion the Imperial safety was threatened by some impious fiend.

The ex-Emperor now spoke.

"Minamoto, you are right. Whatever strange fatality, whether in the past or in the present, has induced this misfortune, there can now be but one remedy. Does your judgment tell you what it is?"

"Your Majesty," answered Minamoto, "I scarcely trust myself to conceive any opinion on such a subject, but I have always been taught that the sound of a bow-string drawn by the hand of a pure-hearted knight can rout an army of evil spirits."

"Then," said Horikawa, the slightest tone of eagerness vibrating through his stately voice, "then, Minamoto, you shall guard the Emperor to-night."

"Your Majesty," answered the knight, raising his head for the first time, "I thank you. Whether I succeed or fail, I shall never forget that my sovereign thought me worthy of such a trust."

With so little question and such large devotion did the brave man undertake this momentous function.

It has been well said that there is no lock for men's lips. The shadows had not crept half an inch further on the dial, before a whisper of Minamoto's enterprise had flowed round the whole palace, and for the moment one absorbing curiosity unified the feelings of all, from the knights who guarded the thirty two gates, to the minions who scoured the game-cocks' cribs; from the blind musician who studied his art in the voice of the mavis, to the scullion who fanned the frying eels. For it was seldom indeed that anything happened to vary the monotone of life within the moats of the Imperial Castle. The same stately dream numbed the vitality of daily routine and holiday pastime, from the opening spring, when the first plum-blossom shone through the mists of the "silver thread waterfall," to the decaying autumn, when the wild hurricane stripped their last leaves from the maples. Even the illness of the Emperor had come upon him so stealthily and conquered him so gradually, that its climax had been equally indifferent to the palace denizens, of whom the great bulk had never so much as looked on the sacred lineaments. But now the mystery, which for two days had been growing so fast, that these placid folks found the hours too few for their surmises and their questions; this mystery had assumed the form of a single combat between a ghastly fiend and the best knight in Japan, and whether an unsuccessful issue would transform the palace into a den of demons, or the country of the gods into an empire of ogres, were questions that credulity found little difficulty in answering.

Small marvel then that all who could look gazed, and all who were less fortunate listened, as Minamoto and his thirty followers rode down the path of the setting sun-beams to the verge of the "Tortoise bridge" that spanned the third moat of the castle. Here dismounting from their horses, they crossed the bridge, and following a marble causeway, touched on either side by wide areas of milk white pebbles, reached a gate which admitted them to the "Court of the bronze eagles." Just beyond the shadow of a cherry forest, the one in the act of alighting and the other welcoming him with outstretched neck, these colossal birds rested each a foot upon the lowest of ten granite steps leading to the hall of audience, a noble chamber, in every niche of whose ample walls some story of philosophy or valour was depicted; hollow-eyed Sain unravelling mysteries of the abacus by the glow of his caged fire-flies; Sanko with numbed fingers fumbling among folios of infant ethics by the pallid gleam of a snow-patch; Sonkei, his chamber door built up and his head supported in a hair halter, guarding his studies from sleep or intrusion; Miyo's mother sacrificing her life to secure her son's fidelity, and many another history that cycles can never tarnish.

It was scarcely an accident that prepared this chamber for the entertainment of Minamoto and his followers on the eve of their enterprise. Surrounded by classics of heroism, and seated in places made reverend by the memory of princely occupants, they received from the hands of the Minister a golden cup hitherto untouched by any lips save those of the Emperor himself, and one after another pledged the faith they followed and the life they left, for they had all sworn not to survive failure.

While the moonlight was still half hidden by the gloaming, they passed into that part of the palace where the sick man lay. Minamoto seated himself in the same place from which the ex-Emperor had watched the night before, and his thirty followers took up their posts in the Court-yard of the Bells. They were all in complete armour, greave and hauberk, breast plate and back piece, and Minamoto carried in his hand a bow whose heart had been shaped that day from a block of mulberry more than a hundred years old. Of this block, before its sap was quite dry, a part had supplied a mortuary tablet for one of his ancestors, and on the remnant, at each triennial mass for the soul of the dead man, a single letter had been traced by the officiating priest, until the characters shaped themselves into this: "in the fibre, fame or failure." Minamoto, believing that the crisis to which this prophecy pointed was now surely come, had on his return from the palace, taken the block from its place beside the family altar, and after a prayer to the guardian spirits of his forefathers, caused it to be cut into a centre piece for the bow he carried.

By the Emperor's side his father, the Prime Minister and the chief physician watched, while the room that separated this from the Elf gallery was occupied by the Empress Fukiko, her ladies in waiting, and Atsuko, who sat in her old seat by the lions. Of the rest, all those who were in the palace, as well as many thousands without, where rumour had tripled the truth, waited and wondered.

Two hours after the booming of the temple bells at midnight, the ex-Emperor, who till that moment had kept his gaze fixed upon the sick man, suddenly turned towards the door of the lions, and at the same instant those who were without observed that Minamoto, rising hastily upon one knee, seized his bow and carried his hand to the string. Almost immediately afterwards the bells in the court-yard sounded, and the Prime Minister called out loudly that the Emperor's agony was upon him.

Then the thirty one knights, springing to their feet, drew their bow-strings from forearm to forehead, and holding them stretched while their leader shouted defiance to the evil spirits, released them in unison with a twang that seemed to stir the darkness. This was repeated thrice, and, each time, the voice of Minamoto, pealing with a resonance more than mortal, the majesty of these men who had promised to die or to succeed, the mystery of the foe they fought with, and the extraordinary moment of the issue, thrilled the spectators as though a breath of winter had touched them on the autumn night.

At the third sound of the bows, the Emperor awoke, free from everything but the memory of his pain, and the following day two proclamations were issued under the hand of the Prime Minister, the one raising Minamoto to the fourth rank of nobility, with much eulogy and large grants of revenue, and the other confiscating the estates of Ishikawa and banishing him for ever from the capital.

(To be continued in our next.)

EXTRACTS.

CHILDREN I HAVE MET.

A CHRISTMAS STORY, IN THREE CHAPTERS.

By JAMES PATN.

CHAPTER I.

UPON a certain Christmas Eve, not many years ago, I was in a train on the North-Western Railway, bound for London. It is the fashion to express pity for persons of my mature age who are obliged to travel upon that festive season, when they ought to be "by rights" in the chairs by their own hearth, surrounded by laughing child-faces, and looking forward—not without some apprehension—to snap-dragon; but I did not feel any commiseration for myself whatever. My home was in town, and I should meet there with such a loving welcome, I well knew, as would compensate me for any inconvenience of my present position. As for the child-faces, they indeed were not awaiting me, but, since I had never known such, they would not be missed. I was content to picture to myself the bright glad face of her who had been my own true wife for near a quarter of a century, and which, if not so far, was ten times as dear to me as on the day on which I had beheld it first. The battle of life had been a hard one for me, and in my secret heart I think I should have lost it had she not stood by my side; for in that warfare the non-combatants count for much.

God wives are the music that puts men in heart, as the martial band inspires the soldier; only in their case it plays right on throughout the fight,—now soft, now loud, but ever heard till death comes to us or them. They are the hospital staff, who bind up our wounds and nurse us tenderly, when the battle has gone sore against us; and they are the chaplains also, who, taking advant-

age of our weakness, would lead us—God bless them!—to the skies, of which we have lost sight in all that smoke and turmoil. I would not have said this to my Nelly for a kingdom—for these angels are human, after all—but such was the thought that I entertained about her as the express flew through the fallingsnow, which had clothed all objects with its dazzling robe, as though it were attiring earth as a bride for heaven.

As the day drew on—for my journey was a long one—and the sunbeams faded, those bridal garments became those of death, and the look of the vast snow-shroud made me shiver. What would life become, thought I, if my sunbeam were to cease, and I should be left alone, without even that reflection of it to comfort me such as the widower sees, or thinks he sees, in the eyes of his children? A selfish thought indeed, but are not all our thoughts selfish, even when they are busied with those who are far dearer to us than life itself? If she did die, would the religion that I professed prove indeed a solace? Would there be any real actual consolation in the belief that we should meet again where there is neither marrying or giving in marriage, and where all the conditions of our existence must needs be wholly changed? I am not a sentimental man—far from it: I plume myself, with reason, upon my practical character. "Will it wash?" is the vulgar but expressive phrase—borrowed from a connection of many years with a certain Manchester warehouse—which I am accustomed to apply to matters in general. To many a plain man of mature years and of the middle class, who has no pretensions to be considered a philosopher, such thoughts, or others like them, have doubtless sometimes come for a brief space, to be dissipated by the first material incident. The carriage passing over the points at the terminus, and shaking us all up a little, cut the thread of my slender speculations, and set me wondering, as our train langed and clattered into the station, whether there would be a sufficiency of cabs to supply our needs. I had not much luggage, but there was a box containing a certain Christmas present for my Nelly about which I was solicitous, and I repaired at once to the luggage-van to look after it. "Of course, it is the last box," was upon the tip of my impatient tongue, as trunks, imperials, and hat-boxes were poured out upon the platform, and ever and anon the "By your leave" of the porter with his iron-wheeled barrow made my keen sense of the rights of property succumb to the care of life and limb; but, as it happened, I had this time underrated the malice of destiny; the box was not there at all. The luggage van yawned before me with nothing in it; and with my heart full of bitterness and thoughts of action at law for loss of goods in transit, I turned upon my heel, and almost overset a little woman of five years old or so, with a look of wistfulness in her tear-wet eyes of blue that would have melted Hero!

"What is it, my dear?" inquired I stooping my ear to the level of her rosebud of a mouth.

"Gibbinth," said she, laying her small hand upon my arm.

"Give you what, my darling?" It was plain she was not a beggar; indeed, I should have used the phrase, a "lady's child" in describing her, had not her woeful little face put all ideas of her social rank out of my mind. She was well and warmly clad, as suited with the snowy night, and had a sealskin muffler hanging round her neck, into which, so soon as she found she had attracted my attention, she replaced her little hands.

"You are Gibbinth?" continued she, looking at me anxiously from top to toe, as though to discover for herself some distinctive mark of the Gibbins family.

"No, my dear," said I; "I am not." It was impossible to be angry with such a tiny creature, but I certainly did not feel flattered at being taken for any such person. If it had been Montmorency or Howard, the mistake might have been intelligible enough; but—Gibbins!

"If you are not Gibbinth, where can Gibbinth be?" continued the little maiden; "the Dutchman has been in my eyes for ever so long."

I had never heard the metaphor about the Dutchman (who, by the bye, turned out to be the Dutchman), but it was evident the poor little thing was sleepy and tired. The passengers had by this time all departed, and, besides the officials, there was no one visible beneath the roof of that ghastly station save myself, this little one, and a single cabman, who was making intermittent signs to me with his whip—as though he were moved by clock-work—that he was waiting there for my convenience, and that he hoped any longer delay would be considered in the fare. A feeling began to creep over me that I had done some wrong to this poor little scrap in not being Gibbins, as she had expected, and that she had some sort of claim upon me in consequence. In vain I said to myself that that "wouldn't wash," and called up all the precepts of a long and successful commercial career to justify the great principle of non-interference. The most that they could do for me was to suggest my shifting the responsibility upon somebody else, and referring the matter to the railway officials.

As I moved away to where the Inspector's office was inscribed over a doorway, my small acquaintance again laid her little hand upon my wrist, not as a grown-up lady takes a gentleman's arm, but with a certain sense of assured dependence, that it was impossible to ignore or to resist.

If I was not Gibbins, that tiny pressure seemed to say I was in Gibbins' place, and the future conduct of affairs, so far as she was concerned, was no longer in her hands, but mine.

"Mr. Inspector," said I, when I had found that officer, "what is the meaning of this little lady being all alone here?"

"Well, sir, I was in hopes that you could have told us that." He took off his cap, which had a gold band round it, not in my honour, as I supposed, but for my small companion to admire and handle (it had been, as I afterwards discovered, her plaything for

the last six hours, in the intervals of his official business). We a! thought that you were Gibbins come at last."

"I am nothing of the sort," said I testily. "I never saw this ——" here she looked up from the cap with such an astonished gaze, caused by my harsh tones, that I felt quite ashamed of myself—"I say I never before set eyes upon this little lady in all my life."

"I am sorry for it, sir," answered the inspector, "for she don't seem to have any other friend. She has been here for half the day, and more, in the waiting-room yonder; and whenever a train comes in, out she trots, and asks for Gibbins. It's an infamous shame of those who have sent a child like that up on a Christmas Eve, with nobody to meet her, at a great station like this; and I should like to have the whippin' of 'em."

"What's her name?" inquired I, in a whisper.

"Well, you had better ask her, sir; for none of us can make head or tail of it ourselves."

Then I stooped down, and put the first question in the Church Catechism to this poor little waif and stray.

"What is your name?"

"I'm Osey," replied she, looking up in surprise that such an obvious fact should not be already known to me.

"She means Rosey," explained the inspector; "such a child as that can never pronounce her hars, bless you. It's plain to me that you ain't a family man, sir."

I had once, however, been within a very little of being so, and that was, in truth, the chief reason why I did not at once offer this delicate human waif the shelter of our home.

Some years ago, I had met, within a few streets of my own doors an ayah, an Indian nurse, with perhaps the fattest child in her arms which England has yet produced, and who had lost her way; she could understand a little English, but could speak no more of it than informed me that her master's name was "Yone," evidently Bengalee for Jones. As to where he lived, she had no notion, except that it was in the direction of the setting sun, which for London is a somewhat vague address.

She had a robe of white, which contrasted strikingly with her black and shining face; she had a ring through her nose, of more splendour, I should say, than value; and a pair of very lavishly embroidered slippers, turned up at the toes.

Altogether, she was not a desirable person for a gentleman in my line of business to be seen going about with, between six and seven in the afternoon, when his friends and neighbours are all returning from the City.

I felt at the time that she "wouldn't wash," and indeed it would have been of no use if she did; yet I could scarcely leave her to wander about all night with that enormous child; she was very tired already, it was evident, although not hungry; people had offered her buns, it seemed, in great profusion, and one woman had nearly killed her with a bottle of ginger-beer (an article, I believe, forbidden by the Hindu faith); and of the use and value of money she was entirely ignorant; in short, I was obliged to bring her home, which I did, accompanied by a mob of about forty street-boys, and a policeman in the distance; I had told him of her calamity, and he could suggest no remedy beyond the station house, but the situation interested him.

By the skilful cross-examination of my wife, it was elicited from the Ayah that she had gone out for a walk that morning with the child, and had been walking ever since, probably in a circle.

"But Jones must be the greatest idiot in Great Britain," said I, "to send a nurse out with his child who can't speak English, and who doesn't know her way."

"Perhaps he didn't want to see either of them again," observed my wife, with dismal sagacity.

Then I perceived what a very unwashable material this article I had become responsible for might turn out to be: to have a strange child on one's hands for life was bad enough, but to adopt a black woman with a ring through her nose and turned up slippers! It might be that we were about to entertain an angel unaware, but I was bound to say she didn't look like it.

"I suppose she must have sheets to her bed?" said my wife doubtfully, when discussing the arrangements for the night.

"Yes, yes; her colour is fast enough," returned I, gloomily; "she is not an Ethiopian serenader."

Not a syllable indeed did she sing or say, beyond "Yes" or "No" and "Yone" while she remained under our roof, which was only for twelve hours; nor did the fat child open its mouth except for food, which it devoured voraciously.

After breakfast next morning came Jones (of India), whom the police had informed of the asylum which his offspring had received. He swore in Hindustanee at the Ayah, boxed the child's ears for being frightened at his father's violence, and then expressed his thanks to my wife (for I was gone to the City) for her "injudicious hospitality." "I am sure your husband meant well," he was good enough to say, "but I should have had much less trouble if he had left matters to the police."

It was the remembrance of this fiasco that made me even more practical than usual on the present occasion, and caused me to hesitate in constituting myself "Rosey's" temporary Guardian.

"What is your surname?"

"My surname?" It was plain that I might as well have asked her the explanation of the Schleswig-Holstein difficulty, at the time at its acme of complexity.

"What is your papa's name?"

She shook her head till the golden curls fell over her sweet face as the summer wind scatters the laburnum.

"And mama's?"

"Mama? No, no mama" answered she quietly, as she buttoned and unbuttoned the chin-strap of the inspector's cap; an indifference far more pathetic to behold than tears.

"But where is your home, Rosey?"

"Home?" Even that word had no meaning for her, it seemed; and yet her dress and manners showed that she had experienced dutiful, if not kindly, ministrations. Her unsuspecting trust and confidence told also the same tale.

"Are you at school, then, darling?"

"Et!" — here she brightened up, well pleased to find her questioner at last intelligible—"me at tool."

"And where is your school, Rosey?"

Here she became a *laburnum* again; names and places were evidently not her strong point; she might have dropped from the skies themselves for all she knew of whence she came or whither she was going.

The station she had come from, the inspector said, was Crewe—a large manufacturing town and junction—so much was told by her ticket, and by the company's luggage label upon a large box that had come with her, but which had otherwise no address.

"What is to be done with her, Mr. Inspector?"

"Well, the woman in charge of the waiting rooms will look after her for the night, I dare say. I would take her home myself, if I had not a house too full of brats already, though, Heaven knows, I don't want to lose any of 'em. Every lady as has seen the child took notice of her, and gave her tarts and things in the refreshment-room; but when it comes to taking her home with them—why, that is quite another matter. It's so few wives, and still fewer husbands, as dares to do it, you see."

"Well, this is my card," said I; "and I will take her to my wife as a Christmas present. I suppose Mr. Gibbins will turn up to-morrow morning at latest."

"Well, if the worst come to the worst, you can but send her to the work-us you know—poor little innocent soul!" and with that he kissed her.

If I had not been of so practical a nature, and if the regulations of the company had not forbidden it, I could almost have given that inspector five shillings; as it was, I left that amount with him for incidental expenses—giving me early news of Gibbins; or what not—and then I called a cab.

"Rosey, my dear, I shall take you home with me," said I: "you must want rest and supper."

"But Tosey must turn too," said Rosey.

"By all means." I thought Tosey was some doll that she had left in the waiting room, and accompanied her thither to get it, while her box was being lifted on to the cab.

In one of those vast and cheerless apartments, with which railway travellers who arrive too soon, or too late, are so well acquainted, I found the woman in charge pacing up and down the place with a large bundle in her arms.

"Hullo, missey! said she: "so you have found your friend at last. I must say, sir," added she, addressing herself to me, that you have given me a great deal of trouble—though I don't grudge it, poor little fellow!—in minding this boy for the whole afternoon. He's as good as gold for one of his years, but of course he's dog-tired, and ought to have been in his cot hours ago."

"Why, what boy is that?" inquired I, with a vague sense of apprehension.

"Dat my itty broder Tosey," explained my small companion. Now, Tosey, tum along; the coachey-poachey is waiting."

There were two of them! None who have not had twins unexpectedly presented to them, can picture to themselves my feelings at that moment. There was, however, nothing for it, but to say with the pin-cushion—nay with two pin-cushions—"Welcome little strangers."

At the word "coachey-poachey," as though it had been an open sesame to his young affections, Tosey held out his arms to me, with a wild chuckle, at the same time kicking his little legs like one learning to swim. It was a terrible moment, for I did not know how to handle so delicate an article; it was as though a parlour maid who has never been "out" before should begin with washing up a service of eggshell China; though Tosey did not look so much like the outside of the egg as the inside, poached. So white—for the poor little soul was wan and weary—so soft, so dimpled, so wabby, and so warm he was, it seemed as though the touch of a finger would have broken him.

He was a fair complexioned child, like his sister; but his eyes were a soft brown, whereas Rosey's were as blue as the skies in June; and though, I suppose, a year younger than she, he had a look of thought and gravity (with wrinkles, too, everywhere) which might have become his own grandfather. I have since had some reason to believe that, in another state of existence, Tosey had been King of the fairies, and that the cares of his tiny kingdom still weighed upon him; but this is mere conjecture. He permitted himself great excitements, but, having expressed his feelings, sank always into a state of philosophic reflection, as though to examine whether or no they had been justified. Thus on catching sight of the cab-horse, he cried "Jee-jee," and jerked himself so violently in my arms that I thought for the moment we had both fallen backwards; then immediately afterwards he became stolid, silent, and statuesque. I seized upon this opportunity to place him on the back-seat of the vehicle, where I could have my eye on him, and where, being wedged in by his sister and her multitudinous wraps, I thought he would keep his equilibrium. This, however—although throughout the catastrophe he preserved his gravity—was by no means the case, for no sooner did the wheels begin to move, than both of the children fell forward, knocking my open purse out of my hand, from which I had just been paying the waiting-woman, and scattering its contents upon the floor of the cab, which as usual, had as many holes as a cullender. What was the precise extent of my pecuniary loss, I never ventured to calculate, but certainly I did something to realise the dream of Dick Whittington in paving the neighbourhood of Euston Square with gold.

Property however (except in the eye of the law), is of less consequence than life, and all my energies were directed to preserve my fellow-travellers. Fortunately, they were so wrapped in clothing, that they could scarcely have been hurt—unless they had fallen on their faces, which they did not, but quite the reverse—had they dropped from the top of St. Paul's; but for the rest of the journey I placed one on one of my knees, and one on the other, and held them each with one arm as well. There is a famous statue (not the least like me, however) called the First Cradle, which accurately represents my position in the four-wheeler; nor did I dare to change it even by a hair-breadth, for in a second or two both of my little friends had fallen asleep, and it was clear by their sweet faces that it would have been a crime to wake them.

Rosey was away in Paradise, where the only idolatry is baby-worship—the Peris were handing her about from one to the other, and she had a smile for every one. Tosey was back in Elfland, recounting his adventures among mortals, accompanied by philosophic reflections. Not a sigh escaped them, not a movement stirred their tender limbs; the snow, that was falling more thickly than ever, could not have come from the skies more innocent and pure than they.

I had not the least doubt of the nature of their reception from my Nelly; my apprehensions were solely upon my own account. That syah business, though it had happened long ago, still rankled in her memory. If she had been in my place, she would, I knew, have done exactly as I had done, and I should have expostulated with her upon acting upon impulse, and giving way to sentiment on Christmas Eve. It is so different, being philanthropic one's self, and bearing the philanthropy of other people.

The astonishment of our parlour-maid upon perceiving her master return with these unexpected guests, was such that she actually forbore to remark upon them, as I carried the two into the house.

"Is that you, George?" cried my wife's delighted voice from the drawing-room floor."

"I am not quite sure, my dear," was my reply; for indeed I had by this time begun to entertain suspicions of my own identity: "you had better come down and see."

"And you nice old darling, that is to look at the Christmas present you wrote about, I know."

"Well, no," said I; "that is gone astray" (I had up to then forgotten all about that unhappy box) "but I have brought you others instead."

"O! dear, delightful, generous——oh, my goodness! whose children have you got there?"

"Gibbins's!"

For the moment that answer proved sufficient, for Rosey and Tosey had both opened those masked batteries, their wondering eyes: and, silenced by their unexpected fire, my wife could only gasp and gaze from one to the other.

"Mum-mum-mum-mum," ejaculated Tosey very rapidly, with the air of a discoverer.

"Why, he takes me for his mama! I do declare, continued Nelly, with enforced admiration, as she folded him in her arms.

"And are you his sister, pretty dear?"

"Et! This monosyllable was elongated and dwelt upon with conscious pride. "Me and Tosey is sister and brudder."

"But where on earth are their parents? Where did you pick them up, and why did you bring them home?"

"They were left at the station and never called for," explained I; and since there was no sleeping accommodation for them in the waiting-room—which must, moreover, be rather a lonely place for a nursery after business hours, besides which it was snowing hard, and being Christmas Eve, when, above all times, little children should be had in remembrance——"

"Jan, bring some tea and cake as soon as you can get it," interrupted my wife; "and tell Elizabeth to get the spare room ready. She had better sleep with the poor little dears, for they are too young to be left alone, and, of course, it will only be for one night."

"Of course not," said I cheerfully. Gibbins is certain to turn up in the morning, just as Mr. Jones did."

My object was to draw a deduction from experience that might inspire confidence in these young persons being taken off our hands, of which in reality I by no means felt assured; but I had made a mistake in mentioning Jones, of Bengal.

"We shall doubtless get no thanks for whatever we do," remarked my wife tartly, at the same time taking off Rosey's multitudinous wraps with much tender solicitude. "I have no patience with wretches who leave their little children alone and friendly in the great waste of London. I wonder where they expect to go to?"

"Yes, and where they expect their children to go to," rejoined I. "However, it isn't Rosey's fault, nor Tosey's."

If the children had looked beautiful in their furs and wraps, they appeared still more attractive now that they were in their undergarments, which showed their grace of movement. Rosey's limbs were very slender, but she climbed actively enough into the chair that had been set for her at the tea-table, though not before she had seen Tosey's more plump proportions already seated in his. I was plain that she still considered him under her charge and edict. When my wife cut her a slice of cake, she passed it on to her brother, and broke it into small pieces for him, as one breaks bread to feed the birds; nor, while attending to his physical comforts, did she neglect his manners. "What does Tosey say?" inquired she, "to the lady who gives him cake?"

Tosey stared at her in shocked surprise. Could she not see that he was waiting? indulging in the only occupation in which (as she must be aware) he took at present any satisfaction? Nay, even upon the lowest ground, who could be expected to reply to abstract questions, who has his mouth quite full of currant cake? Again

she appealed to his sense of politeness, and this time he transferred his eyes from her fair face to the central ornament of the ceiling, at which he stared and continued to stare (though eating all the time) with an intensity that riveted our own attention also.

"Now what does Tosey say when he is dood, and has hax his cake?" repeated the other, more persuasively even than before.

"Moa" (more).
At this my wife burst out laughing and threw her arms about his neck. "Did you ever hear such a sensible child" cried she, "to say more instead of Ta? Why it's human nature in a nutshell." It was one form of human nature, no doubt; but it was another—though alas! one not so much dwelt upon by the theologians—to see Rosey's unselfish solicitude for Tosey's comfort, as though a nightingale should take a wren under its wing, and tend it. And the wren acknowledged her loving service. Tosey declined the offer of my wife's assistance to descend from his chair, with a certain austere calmness. "You menn well, I have no doubt, my good woman" his manner seemed to say; but this honour is reserved for another: it pleases her, and I am disposed to please her, when there's no temptation to do otherwise." So Rosey's outstretched arms received him, after his repast; and in their loving hold he immediately fell asleep, like a despot gorged with wine and meat in the embrace of some favoured slave. My wife carried him to bed herself; while Elizabeth carried Rosey, a burden scarcely heavier than he—her blue eyes heavy with sleep, her golden hair streaming behind her like a sheaf of stars. The painter who drew Jacob's Ladder with the angels ascending it, must have seen some such spectacle as that, I think, on his own stairs at home.

(To be continued.)

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Provincial Government. An apology for a Prologue.

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THE TIMES OF TAIKO; A collection of Stories, illustrative of the Lie and Manners of Old Japan, by F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R. A. Ishikawa Goyemon.

Chap. I. The Bells.

Telegrams.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

CHILDREN I HAVE MET. A Christmas Story, in three chapters. By James Payn.

Professions and Trades Directory.

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Sausages	"	.30			"
Beef—Japese. Butchers	.12				"
Mutton	"	.25			"
Veal	"	.20			"
Pork	"	.07			"
Sausages	"	.10			"
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Chickens15			each.
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Wild geese	...	1.00			"
Pigeons08			"
Turkeys	...	2.00			"
Hen Turkeys	...	1.50			"
Deer15			per lb.
Wild—boar12			"
Hares37			each.
Pheasants35			"
Quail08			"
Snipe06			"
Woodcock35			"
Wild ducks37			"
Bombay Onions07			per lb.
Spinach003			per bundle.
Carrots015			"
Turnips015			"
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Celery02			per stick.
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Cabbage02			each.
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Dec. 30	Courier	Clarke	Am. str.	450	Hiogo		General	Walsh, Hall and Co.
Jan. 3	Minerva	Peacock	Bri. str.	1,025	London		General	Findlay, Richardson Co.
" 4	Fire Queen	Hamilton	Bri. barg.	769	Cardiff		Coals.	
" 5	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Shanghai		Mails and Co.	M. B. M. S. Co.
" 5	Dragon	Grevatt	Bri. str.	472	Ngaaki		General	Jard. Matheson and Co

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DISPATCHED BY.
Dec. 30	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5079	Hongkong		Mails and general	P. M. S. S. Co.
" 31	City of Tokio	Maury	Am. str.	5050	San Francisco		Mails and general	P. M. S. S. Co.
" 31	Willard Mudgett	Dickie	Am. barg.	850	New York		Tea and general	Smith Baker and Co.
" 31	Bertha	Langley	Bri. str.	1421	Hiogo		General	Jardine, Matheson Co.
Jan. 1	Tanais	De la Marcelle	Fr. str.	1735	Hongkong		Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 2	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2119	Shanghai & ports		Mails and general	M. B. M. S. S. Co.
" 2	Annie W. Weston	Winsor	Am. barg.	740	Europe		Rice	Ed. Fischer and Co.
" 2	Ceylon	Kelly	Am. barg.	681	Hiogo		Ballast	E. B. Watson
" 2	Abercarne	Evans	Bri. ship	1087	Owari		Ballast	Ed. Fischer and Co.
" 2	Hoi Hon	Wan-i-toa	Chi. corv.	2800	Shanghai		General	
" 3	Courier	Clarke	Am. str.	450	Hakodate			Walsh, Hall and Co.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1709	Hongkong	Dec. 26	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Volga	Holland	French steamer	1502	Hongkong	Dec. 22	M. B. Co.	
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Laid up
Dragon	Grevatt	British steamer	472	Nagasaki	Jan. 5	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Hakodate
Nagoya Maru	Conner	Japanese steamer	1,914	Shanghai	Jan. 5	M. B. Co.	Shanghai, &c.
Genkai Maru	—	Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Repairing
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Hakodate		Lighthouse Department	
Minerva	Peacock	British steamer	1,025	London, &c.	Jan. 3	Findlay Richardson & Co.	Kobe.
Tamaura Maru	Dethlefsen	Japanese steamer	538	Kobe.		Japanese Government	
SAILING SHIPS.							
Eme	Asals	British barque	371	Kobe	Dec. 14	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Fire Queen	Hamilton	British barque	769	Cardiff	Jan. 4	Findlay Richardson & Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands.	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Laura A. Burnham	Phillips	Am. barkantine	600	Newcastle, NSW	Dec. 2	Carl Rhede & Co.	Hongkong
Lord of the Isles	Watt	British barque	317	Takao	Dec. 25	Ed. Fischer & Co.	New York
Messenger	Gilkey	American ship	1027	Hakodate	Dec. 15	Smith, Baker & Co.	
Newman Hall	Slater	British ship	1523	Cardiff	Dec. 2	O. & O. Co.	
Nagasaki Maru	Ringk	Japanese barque	402	Kobe	Dec. 11	M. B. Co.	
Otsego	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	Europe
One	Morgan	British barque	523	Cardiff	Dec. 12	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Oceania	Firth	British barque	435	Nagasaki	Dec. 23	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Oceanus	Brorsen	German brig	207	Shanghai	Dec. 23	Lane, Crawford & Co.	
Reindeer	—	British schooner	—	Nagasaki	—	F. D. Walker.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Alert	4	541	Ship	Commander R. Boyd
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1405	Cruiser	Captain Buller, C.B.
" Sylvia	—	877	Surveying vessel	Commander Aldrich
FRENCH—La Clocheterie	12	1990	Cruiser	Captain Reynier

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsui Bishi S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.
(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
Feb. 6	Feb. 8	Feb. 10	Feb. 11	Feb. 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 3	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 16	Jan. 18	Jan. 19	Jan. 21	Jan. 24
" 23	" 25	" 26	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsui Bishi Company steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company by its contract of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

* No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

* Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

* Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 14	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 4	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 18	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 1	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
" 15	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 29	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
Nov. 12	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 26	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
Dec. 10	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
" 24	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Mar. 5	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 27	Feb. 3	" 19	Jan. 13	" 23	Mar. 2
Feb. 10	" 17	Apr. 2	" 27	Mar. 9	" 16
" 24	Mar. 3	" 16	Feb. 10	" 23	" 30
Mar. 10	" 17	" 26	" 24	Apr. 6	Apr. 13
" 24	" 31	May 10	Mar. 10	" 20	" 27
Apr. 7	Apr. 14	" 24	" 24	May 4	May 11
" 21	" 28	June 7	Apr. 7	" 18	" 25
May 5	May 12	" 21	" 15	June 1	June 8
" 19	" 26	July 5	" 29	" 15	" 22
June 2	June 9	" 19	May 13	" 29	July 6
" 16	" 23	Aug. 2	" 27	July 13	" 20
" 30	July 7	" 16	June 10	" 27	Aug. 3
July 14	" 21	" 30	" 24	Aug. 10	" 17
" 28	Aug. 4	Sept. 13	July 8	" 24	" 31
Aug. 11	" 18	" 27	" 22	Sept. 7	Sept. 14
" 25	Sept. 1	Oct. 11	Aug. 5	" 21	" 28
Sept. 8	" 15	" 29	" 19	Oct. 5	Oct. 12
" 22	" 29	Nov. 12	Sept. 2	" 19	" 26
Oct. 6	Oct. 13	" 26	" 16	Nov. 2	Nov. 9
" 20	" 27	Dec. 10	Oct. 6	" 16	" 23
Nov. 3	Nov. 10	" 24	" 20	" 30	Dec. 7
" 17	" 24	'79 Jan. 7	Nov. 3	Dec. 14	" 21
Dec. 1	Dec. 8	" 21	" 17	" 23	'79 Jan. 4
" 15	" 22	Feb. 4	Dec. 1	'79 Jan. 11	" 18
" 29	'79 Jan. 5	" 18	" 15	" 25	Feb. 1

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

DOWN TRAIN.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio)	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30
3½	Shinagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40
6	Omori	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49
10½	Kawasaki	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4
12½	Tsurumi	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12
16½	Kanagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25
18	Yokohama	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30

UP TRAINS.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
—	Yokohama	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34
1½	Kanagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40
5½	Tsurumi	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52
7½	Kawasaki	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2
12	Omori	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16
14½	Shinagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio)	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34

FARES.

1st.	2nd.	3rd.
yen sen yen sen yen sen.		
...	25	10
...	40	20
...	55	30
...	70	40
...	85	50
...	1 00	60

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.**FIRE.**

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	6	" " "
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	3	" " "
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	1	" " "
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	10 days	3-16 " "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,		
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.
Second " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	3	" " "
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,		
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.
Second " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	2	" " "

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

BATAVIA, JAVA.

THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,

BATAVIA, JAVA.

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No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON EMBERT.

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YOKOHAMA.

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E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 2.]

January 12, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY.

THE inherent right of every nation is to govern by its own laws; any attempt to dictate the manner of its municipal government may be justly resented as an interference with the independence of a State; a nation which admits the interference of another with its internal government ceases to be independent. These are maxims of the law political, self-evident—and trite; but in them may be summed up the arguments put forward by the advocates for the withdrawal, from the Treaties with Japan, of the extra-territorial clauses.

But such advocates ignore the masterful axiom that 'circumstances alter cases.' In considering the question of the possibility—before we approach that of the advisability—of revoking these clauses, naturally irksome to a high-spirited people, the most important factor in the calculation is the almost anomalous position of Japan as a nation, relative to other Powers. The experiment of intercourse with foreigners was tried, and adjudged a failure, during the last half of the sixteenth century: and Iyeyasu, the founder of the dynasty which ruled the land from 1605 to 1868, deliberately revived the old policy of exclusion, inaugurating its restoration with a thoroughly decisive massacre. But since this latter date, Japan has turned her back on the traditions of her past; and, accepting the truth that 'progress' is necessary to her welfare, seeks admission into Western society, and is content to re-mould her own civilisation after our fashions. She must undergo the inevitable experience of the *parvenu*. When a man, raised by innate ability, inherited wealth, or other accident, above the class in which he was born, fancies its dull society unworthy of his lustre, and seeks a more brilliant assembly, before which to strew his pearls; he finds success up to a certain point singularly facile. He is welcomed into some *salons* as a lion of the season; his exertions for social triumphs are sneered at by the class he has left, while it regrets his loss, and is jealous of his success; the social parasites of the class he attempts to join batten on the new blood, and its sycophants pander to his vices and his vanity. But beyond this point he cannot reach. Admission to the coteries of really good society is denied to him by prejudices of birth, education, and association, which he cannot overcome in his own person, and is fortunate if he can secure for his son or his grandson. And, though the truth is an unpleasant one to state:—as is the position of the *parvenu* social, so is that of the *parvenu* political, and it is not to be denied that at present Japan occupies that unenviable *status*. There is a principle of international communion, more necessary to a nation's progress among nations, and to the maintenance of a nation's fame, than even the assertion of the right of self-government:—the principle of equality. And it is the antagonism of Eastern policy to this principle which prevents the withdrawal of our claim to self-governance, or the government of our own magistrates, within the territories

of Eastern States. The rights of man, in our western polities, are held to take precedence of, to be the root of, and, concreted, to become—the rights of nations. Herein lies the gist of the whole argument of our resistance to Eastern jurisdiction. We cannot admit the equality of a nation, or its claims to international rights, whose citizens do not enjoy the equality of nature, or the rights of man. The grant of relief from external pressure must be bought by the guarantee of internal reform.

Let us instance. Essential to the preservation of this equality in civil government is the independence of magistrates. Magistrates chosen, at the will of a sovereign, from place-hunting courtiers—without qualification of knowledge, without scientific training, fail to preserve even the best system of laws from mal-administration. Removable at his pleasure, all their decisions suffer the taint of suspicion or contempt. How then, under a code of laws which we believe to be far from the best; which confessedly unfixed, unproved, receiving daily revision, and requiring more,—can foreign shepherds be expected to subject that tender lamb, the foreign litigant, to the shears of native magistrates, without independence or *esprit de corps*, of whose ability they have no knowledge, nor any confidence in their desire to be just.

Let us not be misunderstood. Perfect equality is as impossible as is the exercise, in perfection, of any inherent right. The equality we contend for is a comparative principle, as is inherent right a right of qualified application. Not the equality of a theoretic or fanciful Utopia; but such recognition of the individual as is permitted under the necessarily imperfect laws of the world's economy: a give-and-take equality. Many rights, recognized and respected, militate against perfect equality; such, for instance, as monopolies—notably the monopoly of land in the hand of the sovereign, or of an aristocracy. And thus restriction of the tenure of land by aliens has long been a recognized principle in European states. But under certain conditions, it is permitted to aliens to occupy land for the purposes of pleasure or trade in all parts of an European empire, while its inheritance is in no case granted. And herein Japan is inconsistently liberal. She refuses the right of residence or occupation—of even travel—in all parts of her empire, while in small portions she has yielded, without an objection, the right of inheritance.

Another obstacle to the establishment of such a working equality, is the remnant of feudalism in Japan. Her feudal system differs as widely from that of the village communities of India and other Asiatic peoples, as it does from the feudal system of the Middle Ages in Europe. Instead of being a system of tenure, by which was sustained the connecting bond of loyalty between the Sovereign and the yeoman; instead of conferring a right in exchange for exacted service; instead, in fact, of illustrating 'give-and-take equality,'—it became under the Shogunate

a principle of despotic government. The territory was divided into Satrapies: the governance of each was assigned to a family, whose head had within the province absolute dominion; civil and criminal jurisdiction municipal and fiscal control:—until the traditions of a province often over-rode the laws of the empire. Alike to other Asiatic communities, in this respect, that the family, and not the individual, was regarded as the unit of society: Japanese feudalism strained this principle into making the family a means of government as well as the unit of tenure. And although, at the Restoration, feudalism received a blow; yet so much of its corrupting and obsolete principles remain, as to render the residence of foreigners under native jurisdiction impossible until they are completely eradicated. A few of these obstacles we will proceed to enumerate.

The undue prerogative of officialism, and the stern rule of the *patria potestas*,—these perhaps afford the best instances for the purpose of our argument. Throughout the Penal Code of Japan (we are using Mr. Longford's translation) we find most startling instances of the prerogative of officialism: from the first clause to the last, the code is swelled with clauses which award vengeance to the official who is attacked by an inferior, or by a civilian; while on the other hand, extenuation of punishment is afforded to the official who attacks his inferior. This strikes quite through the root—as we need hardly point out—of that maxim of our English constitution:—that all men are equal in the eye of the law. Again, the military are exempt from the jurisdiction of the civil and criminal tribunals of the Empire:—

"Persons in the naval and military services are in all cases to be tried and punished by their own authorities, even for civil offences:"

And here again is violated one of the fundamental principles of the English constitution, of which Englishmen are most jealous:—the restriction of the excesses of an idle soldiery by the arm of the civil power. Were these two the only points of difference, in an attempt to arbitrate the vexed question of jurisdiction between England and Japan, they would be enough to settle it. No English Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs dare rise in his place in the English parliament, and propose to deprive Englishmen in any part of the world—for no matter what counterbalancing advantage of trade intercourse—of two such indubitable and sacred clauses in the charters by which he holds secure his property, his liberty, and his life.

Again, the power of the father over his family, of the husband over his wife, is recognized almost to the degree of constituting the head of a family a criminal judge and executioner in one, with power to adjudge and inflict capital punishment at his own will or caprice: so trifling are the penalties attached to the extremest of his acts:—

"A husband who kills a wife for using abusive language towards, or assaulting his parents or grand-parents, instead of appealing to the authorities, shall, if information of his crime be given to the authorities by the parents (we suppose of the woman) be punished by penal servitude for one year, and by penal servitude for ninety days, if, in the assault, the wife has inflicted any wounds on either parents or grand-parents."

"No penalty shall attach to the husband if the wife commit suicide after having been beaten or scolded by him for a fault of this kind."

Yet again:—

"A master who, of himself and without reference to the authorities, kills a servant who has been guilty of a capital offence, shall be punished by penal servitude for eighty days. No penalty shall attach to a master for beating a servant, unless cutting wounds be inflicted, when he shall be sentenced to a punishment three degrees less severe than that provided in the law of assault for ordinary

"cases, and if the death of the servant result from such beating, the punishment shall be penal servitude for ten years!"

Compare this with our European codes, to which native servants so often appeal, here and elsewhere in the East, on the slightest provocation by their employers.

The total absence of training for the bench, noticeable in the judiciary to which law-abiding Europeans are asked to submit themselves, belongs rather to a distinct branch of the subject which we intend to treat next week—but we must not totally omit notice of it, as an element of that uncertainty of administration which, again, is a solitary objection fatal to abolition of the extra-territorial clauses in our Treaties. The criminal code of Japan is founded on the Chinese codes known as those of the Ming and Tsing. Of a civil code, we can find no trace. So far as we can learn, it is drawn from the same source as the criminal law; but there exists no ancient written law accessible to the researches of the foreign student: and the unwritten or traditional law is not to be relied on from day to day. For, from what classes are drawn the judges, the interpreters and administrators of the laws? From the crowd of deserving courtiers or place-seekers; not from a learned and experienced Bar of lawyers. The fact is—there is no such bar. The lawyers themselves possess none of that training in the science of laws which would fit them for interpreting or administering it. There is nothing, here in Japan, to be discovered of that sound and solid foundation which exists in the Bars of Europe and America, of early education, *prestige*, long experience and *esprit de corps*, on which is built up in our Bench so lasting and splendid a structure of morality and justice. There, when a lawyer has achieved the reward of his labours by promotion to a judgeship, he sits a monument of erudition among his peers, a rock of defence to suitors; intelligently administering the law between man and man, without regard to high or low degree,—irremovable and independent, and so, impartial. Here how different the spectacle! on the Bench,

"Blind and naked ignorance
Delivers brawling judgments, unashamed,
On all things all day long:"

While, at the bar, familiarity with the literature of the country—romances and ghost stories—is a chief qualification for admission to the grade of attorney*; and exemption from the witness box is claimed for and conceded to officials of by no means exalted rank.

These are only some of the antagonisms between the laws and customs of the East and West, which are sufficient to prevent the repeal of the 'extra-territorial' clauses: but, certainly, until Japanese civilization has purged itself of at least the impurities we have mentioned above, for their repeal there can be no hope. Whether she can,—without disintegration of the whole frame of her social body,—cast off officialism and corruption, deprive the family influence of its political significance, and the head of the family of his despotic, patriarchal, power—in effect de-Orientalise herself: and whether, possessing the ability to do so, she would be the gainer by the change; are subjects into which we cannot enter, at the close of an article already of too great a length—length only excusable by the vital importance of the subject, and by our feeling that in discussing it, it would not be becoming in the *Japan Times*, to express its opinion with any reserve of sentiment, or any uncertainty of sound.

THE POLL TAX.

AFTER the good cheer has been eaten, and the good wishes exchanged; come the Christmas bills and the New Year's frosts; cough, catarrh and chilblains, and with these disagreeable heralds of 1878 marches the British Con-

* This is on record, as the statement of a native lawyer in a foreign court of this settlement.

sul, as usual, to summon British subjects to pay their Poll Tax, which the authors of the Order in Council having imposed illegally, disingenuously disguised under the title of a Registration Fee. As usual, we shall condemn it, and grumble at it, in language more or less forcible, during the month; on the 30th or 31st, the majority of us will pay it; and a few forgetful or dilatory wights will have to be reminded, in February, of their liability to fine; when in fear and trembling they will hasten to pay up their dollars thankful to owe their escape from additional imposition, to the mercy of officials who disapprove of the tax their duty compels them to exact, as much as the tax-payers object to pay it, whose supineness alone sustains the infliction.

It is barely possible, that by delaying our payments this year for as long a time as the patience of our popular Consul can be stretched to cover, we may escape scot-free, for a New Order in Council has been gazetted, though it has not yet reached us, and this obnoxious clause may have been excised in the new edition. We shall welcome with pleasure such a proof of our having written these lines in vain: but we can hardly anticipate such good fortune with any confidence, as most probably telegraphic orders would have been sent out—were such good fortune in store for us—to prevent the infliction of the tax. Our reason for writing now, instead of waiting for precise information, must be evident. If we delayed our objurgation until the publication of the new Order, every one would have paid his five dollars, every one would have recovered his temper, and we should find ourselves in the inefficient and ineligible position of Solomon's personified Wisdom, crying aloud in the streets, while no man regarded us.

That this Registration Fee is illegal, and is recognized to be so, even by the officials who have to extort it from us by threat of fine, is patent. In all the cases brought before Mr. Goodwin in 1867, he remitted the fines, and, in fact, we believe they have only been imposed when the righteous indignation of some free-born Briton has carried him over the limits of politeness into the pitfalls of contempt of Court. That the pretence of misnaming the impost, and calling it a 'Registration Fee' instead of a 'Poll Tax' is absurd and flimsy is also clear. Registration is a useful and necessary ordinance, as well for the protection of the subject, as for the information of the authorities, and no honest British subject, on his arrival in any settlement or colony in foreign parts, would think of objecting to thus making his legal protectors aware of his arrival, or to paying some such fee as would cover the expense of his registration. But that this fee should be changed into a Tax, and that Englishmen should be required to submit to the degradation of what in some other consulates is a form of punishment, or a substitute for bail; and compelled thus to report themselves periodically, to obtain what is virtually a ticket-of-leave; this is 'most tolerable and not to be endured.' It should be resisted and, as the tax can be shown to be illegal, nothing is more certain than that resistance would be crowned with success. Indeed, we have a precedent to support us, for it has been successfully resisted by English residents in the Levant, and it is from the Order in Council for their governance that our Order was copied almost *verbatim*.

It is to the Order in Council that any recalcitrant British subject is invariably referred by his Consul or his Minister; and it would seem, indeed, that our constituted authorities regard the document with a veneration considerably in excess of that which they entertain for the Common Law of England. The fact is overlooked that wherever such an Order, by accident or deliberate intention, happens to controvert that Common Law, such part of that Order is void, vicious, and wholly without force; and nothing but appeal to the proper tribunal—in this case the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council,—is necessary to have the error at once corrected. But in small communities like these, no

single individual can set himself to fight against any such abuse, without much damage to himself. Constitutional obstinacy, with more than average talent and legal knowledge—or a very long purse to buy the use of them, are his necessary qualifications. And, besides making himself a marked man, 'particularly recommended' to his successor by each out-going official—besides the inconvenience of suffering the 'law's delay' and, perhaps, the 'insolence of office'; he has to endure the suspicion of being a monomaniac; to listen (perhaps the hardest infliction of all) to his friends' advice and remonstrance; and thus to submit to the cross of martyrdom, without attaining to its crown; and, in fine, where he ought to be regarded as a patriot, is looked upon as little better than a fool, and avoided as a bore. From such a contest an individual may be excused from shrinking, at the small cost of five dollars a year and a few 'unnecessary oaths'; but the difficulties which deter the individual vanish before the determination of a community; and whatever we have lost of our rights as Englishmen, no Order in Council has yet deprived us of the right of petition, the rights of free assembly and free speech, or the liberty of the English Press. If an Association were formed, to which were invited to belong all members of the British communities in China and Japan, who are at present subject to this obnoxious tax, and if each of those members would contribute the same sum—five dollars—of which he is now illegally mulcted annually, a defence fund would be raised, sufficient to obtain the best opinion in London on the legal points involved, the best advice as to the proper method of procedure when called upon to pay in 1879, and enough would be left for taking many of at least the preliminary steps towards a successful application to the high court of appeal. This not a proper place or time to go fully into the law of the case; but we may briefly show how the present order is, as we have asserted it to be, in opposition to the Common Law of England and an infringement of the common rights of Englishmen. The preamble of the Order states that Parliament has given to the Queen in Council, the power to make certain Regulations for the better government of her subjects in such places as Shanghai and Yokohama, and other ports open to our trade in other countries, where we hold the same relative position to their rulers as in China or Japan. But Parliament cannot give to the Queen in Council the power of abrogating a fundamental part of the English Constitution—that no taxes can be imposed by the Crown without the consent of the Commons. To do this would be for Parliament to stultify itself, and to erect every Consular Court in the East into something very like a Star Chamber. And to argue that the power to impose this tax is included in the general power granted to make Regulations for our better governance is futile; because we Englishmen are specially protected, by special enactment, against any such stretch of prerogative. Parliament never intended to confer such power, and proper agitation and respectful petition would immediately restrain its exercise.

We have, purposely, not treated this question with the gravity which many may think it merits; partly because a grave argument would have had less chance of being read; partly because there is really something exquisitely ridiculous in our quiet and lamb-like submission to such a flagrant infringement by our own Sovereign on one of the most sacred of the rights for which generations of our ancestors died on field or scaffold; in comparison with the ferocious attitude we take up towards the Sovereign whose hospitality we enjoy here, on the slightest hint of curtailment of what, though indubitable rights for us, we cannot but feel are regarded by him and his advisers, as grievous wrongs for them. But though this inconsistency has invited a certain gaiety of treatment of the subject, we are perfectly serious in the advice we have given, and willing to do our part in the work we propose. We may find that

the evil has been remedied in the New Order in Council; but should this not be the case, we hope that the advice we have given will be taken, and are confident that its adoption will result in a successful victory over the most annoying grievance under which we labour in the East—where, retaining but the name and memories of Englishmen, so many of our rights and privileges disappear.

THE FINANCE MINISTER'S ESTIMATES.

IN other pages will be found the Finance Minister's dispatch to the Prime Minister, enclosing his annual estimates of revenue and expenditure from July 1 of last year to June 30 of this. We are bound to place this on record as a state paper of a certain importance, but for all practical purposes of information to foreigners the estimates are valueless,—simply because they are estimates only. If the Finance Minister had given us, in his parallel columns, a comparison of the actual revenue and actual expenditure in each department, for 1876-7, with his estimated figures for the same in the same period, we could have gone into their examination with some profit, and our remarks would have taken their rightful place on our first page. But although we recognize the evidence of much labour expended in drawing up these estimates, their value is so diminished by the absence of verification, as to be, as we have said, almost null. There is one redeeming point to be counted in their favour:—that they are not published until the financial year is half over; so that, if they really represent half a year's ascertained facts, and a guess at the rest of the year's probable results, founded on these facts, the delay in their appearance is an advantage instead of an evil, as it has been generally regarded by foreign critics. Of course our system in England is the correct one: that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in opening his Budget, should first make his confession of error in calculation, or claim credit for correctness, with regard to the estimates of the previous year; before submitting his estimates, and making his proposals for the business of the next; but, as we cannot have this at present in Japan, it is surely better that the Finance Minister should make his guesses when he does, with six months' foundation of facts behind him, than that he should produce his Estimates in July, without anything whatever to go on. And it must be remembered, also, that his most important item of Revenue, the Land Tax, ought to be altogether a fact; as the harvest being in, the tax should have been collected. And, finally, we are inclined to be tender in criticism of such a document, inasmuch as foreign critics are open to the reply that the state of Japan's finances concern Japan more than Europe and America; and that, so long as the Japanese Government does not ask for fresh loans, and pays, fully and promptly, the interest on outside debt already contracted—it is an act of supererogatory courtesy for it to publish any statement at all.

We have noticed a singular oversight in the work of every foreigner who has, since 1869, written upon Japanese finance. The rules and axioms of political economy, as applied to questions of banking, currency and others, cognate or dependent, are quoted and argued from, totally irrespective of the great overbalancing fact, that the circumstances of Japan are totally different from those of European countries. Her long isolation; the very small proportion borne by her foreign to her internal trade; and specially, the blind and child-like faith in, and submission to, those put in authority over him, displayed by the average Japanese;—these are the most important points to be considered in any argument on Japan finance;—and yet these points have been treated as hardly worthy of mention. But, so long as there is in the country enough metallic currency, wherewith to carry on foreign trade, what need of more, if the people are content with their government's paper money? Gold and silver are, to our think-

ing more convenient *media* of exchange than pieces of card or paper; but if the card or paper will buy as much of one commodity, as a metal token, and can be again exchanged by the seller of that commodity for a fair amount of some other needed by himself, it answers the purpose of this buyer and seller; and merchants with different notions have no right to complain, so long as they are not asked to take a currency of which they do not approve. Hundreds of years before we came to Japan, the silver *boo* was four times the size of the coin we found in circulation, but we were never able to discover that the smaller coin had a less purchasing power than the successively larger ones from which it had descended. It was the power of the government which gave such a purchasing power to its metallic bank note (which is what the *boo* virtually was) that it would buy two-and-a-half times its weight of manufactured and chased silver ware, and the same influence floats its paper bank-notes. That the government of a nation, with a very small amount of accumulated coined bullion, and losing that fast, as a new trade with foreigners suggested to it new wants and imported new luxuries, for which the foreigner would only take bullion;—that this government should avail itself of its people's confidence, and make large issues of paper, ought not to be matter of wonder or reproach from the very foreigners who suggested the use of paper at all, and have taken away most of the coin. Of course the whole system would be hopelessly unsound, anywhere but in Japan: and on another occasion, when we set ourselves the task of advising Japanese financiers, we shall have to use different arguments to the above. But these are such as the Finance Minister might very well use in defence of his estimates, in reply to the fault always found with them, that he balances every account by a fresh issue of paper.

As we have said, our notice of these estimates is merely perfunctory, and they are not worth examination in detail, from the vitiating fact that they are but 'estimates', but we could hardly let them pass without some notice. We hope, next year, that the Finance Minister's statement will be of such a character as to justify us in giving it fuller criticism in these columns.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.

(From the *Tokio Times*)

NOTIFICATION No. 101.—TO KUWAN, IN,
SHO, SHI, FU, KEN.

It is hereby notified that the following Tables of the Revenues and Expenditures for the year between July of the 10th, and June of the 11th year of Meiji, inclusive, have been presented by Okuma Shigenobu, Minister of the Finance Department.

SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijo Dai Jin.

28th December, 10th year of Meiji.

According to the annual custom, I, Okuma Shigenobu, Minister of Finance, respectfully now present to Your Excellency the estimated expenditures and income for the year from July of the 10th, to June of the 11th year of Meiji. I would humbly suggest that the Imperial decree reducing the land taxes and also extending the time for the collection of the same, has caused a great falling off in the revenues for the current fiscal year. In addition to this, if we compare the present with former years, we shall find that, among the various other levies and dues, those which have increased in amount are very few, while those which have decreased are numerous. So, although the greatest economy were practised in the various departments of the government, still the income could not have been made to cover the expenditures. Then, the war in the south-west breaking out, the cost of the expedition against the rebels has swollen to the great sum of 42,000,000 yen. Such unusual outlays could not be expected to be defrayed out of the regular yearly income, and this sudden increase in the national disbursements must be provided for by some special measures promptly instituted to meet the emergency.

The reduction of the principal of the foreign debt, resulting in the reduction of interest paid this year. Next, the capitalization of the various pensions has effected a great saving of outlay. Also, in the Kuwan, In, Shō, Shi, Kiyoku and Legations and Consulates, the expenses have been cut down from the time of the promulgation of the decree of the reduction of land taxes; and, since the breaking out of the south-western rebellion, the expenses in the various government offices and departments, as before mentioned, have been still further reduced. The reduction in the estimate of the disbursements of Fu and Ken has been accomplished by the transfer of the costs of local police service from the central government to the several Fu and Ken. The diminished expenditure for Shinto worship results from the change in the rate of salaries paid to Shinto priests. The reduction in various details of Miscellaneous Expenses has been accomplished by the erasure from the account of the items of repairs upon Imperial palaces, and of losses upon the Reserve Fund, and for the printing of bank notes, bonds, etc. And the estimates for repairs upon the four great bridges has been transferred to the account of dykes.

The total reduction in the above named expenditures amounts to 25,113,893 yen.

On the other hand there are divers items of increased expenditure, viz:—

The domestic debt, in the shape of interest on pensions and bonds or upon temporary or other loans. Also, the expenses of the Imperial Household, as established in the tenth month of the present year. The enlarged police expenses of the Fu and Ken are to be attributed to the insertion, in the accounts of the Treasury Department, of the disbursements for the Sendai and Nagasaki branches of the Sui Do Kiyoku, as well as the regular outlay for Fu and Ken police. Again, local improvements in the Fu and Ken, which hitherto have been made at the cost of the local population, have now been placed to the account of the Imperial Treasury. The increase in the items of dykes in the Fu and Ken has been occasioned by the transfer to

sales of government property, while the items have been greatly increased in number over the previous year, the sum total of receipts has been very much less than during that period. The accounts of the Miscellaneous Incomes have been changed and passed over to the Reserve Fund. The re-funding of loans to the various Imperial princes and to the old "Han" having in previous successive years been to a great extent completed, the amounts left to be paid this year are small.

The diminutions in the several foregoing items of revenue amount collectively to 12,032,326 yen.

While the revenues have, as above stated, fallen off during the year, there are three or four items in which they have been increased; the most important of which I give as follows, viz:—

The Customs duties have greatly exceeded the amount collected from that source in the previous year. Next, the products of the northern provinces have commanded superior prices in the market. Then the receipts from the Rin Kin Han have been augmented by the advanced cost of rice. The estimate of returns from taxes upon *sake*, etc., has been reckoned upon the actual income of the previous year, taken in conjunction with the prospects of the current year. Also, the income from the post offices, railways and telegraphs has greatly increased from the fact of the facilities for traffic having come more and more into favor among the people. Finally, the fees for passports giving permission to travel abroad have been largely augmented by the number of people going to the Centennial Exhibition as well as by those traveling on other business.

The total increase of revenue from all the foregoing items amounts to 353,122 yen, which, if subtracted from the former aggregate deficiency, shows the true decrease to be 11,739,204 yen.

The entire expenditure of the present year is estimated at 51,256,400 yen. This is upwards of 11,737,400 yen less than the estimate of the preceding year. The items in which expenditure has been decreased are as follows, viz:—

INTRODUCTION TO THE TABULATED ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR.

The tables of the Expenditures and Incomes for the tenth year of Meiji, according to the custom of previous years, are founded upon the estimates received from the heads of the various departments, and these important returns consist of the items hereafter given.

The entire revenue for the fiscal year is somewhat above 51,256,400 yen, and, if compared with that of the former year, shows a decrease of upwards of 11,739,200 yen. This decrease is due to the following causes:—

The decree for the reduction of land taxes and for the delay in collecting the same, and the default in taxes in the vicinity and on account of the late rebellion. Secondly, in the income tax there has been an increase in the receipts from Imperial commissions, but the receipts from taxes upon government commissions have decreased, on account of diminution both in the number of the government servants and in the amount of salaries. Again, the decree for the exchange of pensions of the nobility and gentry for government bonds has caused a great reduction in the taxes from that source. Besides this, the stamp duties upon silk, cocoons, floss silk, and the license fees from silk merchants, have all been abolished. Also, the former year's estimate of taxes upon tobacco was greatly in excess of the taxes actually collected; therefore I have this year reduced the estimate on this item accordingly. In addition to this, various stamp duties and license fees, for lawyers, partnerships, the manufacture of weights and measures and the sale of medicines, like the tax on tobacco, had been over-calculated before, and have been reduced in this year's statement. The items of receipts from mines and government manufactures have been computed by the actual receipts of the previous year. In the navy yards the decrease in the expenditures is owing to the cessation of work in the Kagoshima yard. In the

We have first the Reserve Fund, besides various other funds that have been appropriated to other purposes but not yet expended, and these we can use for the present contingency; but they will not by any means prove sufficient to meet the existing deficiency. I have heretofore exercised my humble intellect upon this difficult question, and the result of my reflections I have had the honor to transmit to you at a previous date. An imperial decree has been published for the issue of 27,000,000 yen of new paper money, with which to redeem the old paper money. In place of this, the old paper money—of values from half a yen downward, amounting to over 27,100,000 yen in all—we are to be replaced by silver and copper coins. This is about the state of the finances for the present fiscal year, and it is plain that the immediate question of our revenue is a difficult one to deal with. I would earnestly beg of you that a decree may be published restraining the various departments and government offices from exceeding the amount of the estimated expenditures for the year, and that, in all cases where it is practicable, the expenditures may be as much as possible reduced below the figures in the estimates, so that the government without breaking faith with the people, shall be able to meet all demands when they fall due. This is the prayer of Shigenobu to all the ministers.

The accounts of the expedition against the rebels will soon be put in order, and when the numerous intricacies shall have been arranged and settled, and the report published, then will appear all the pains and trouble incurred in this matter by Shigenobu. Thus in presenting the yearly estimates of receipts and expenditures I have offered to Your Excellency my humble opinions in connection therewith, and I beg that Your Excellency will lend your aid in helping the accomplishment of these my plans in regard to the supremely important matters of our finances.

OKUMA SHIGENOBU,
Minister of Finance.
To SANJO SANEYOSHI,
Prime Minister.

his account of the four great bridges.

The total of the foregoing items of increase in expenditures is 13,376,435 yen, which, if subtracted from the above mentioned sum total of reduction in expenditures, shows the true decrease to be 11,737,408 yen.

The foregoing is the complete exhibit of the increase and decrease of the revenues and expenditures. Besides this, it is necessary to give some little explanation of the manner of compilation of the tables, as follows:

The Hiroshima mines, being only temporarily under government control, are put

in a separate table by themselves. The building of the Imperial palace not being commenced this year, it does not appear in the statement. Also the time of opening the Representative Assembly not being as yet fully settled, nothing in connection with this institution appears among the items of outlay. The Post Office accounts were in the previous year's statement, included with the Home Department accounts, but in obedience to the order of the Dai Jo Kuwan, these have this year been made a separate item; while, on the contrary, the details of the three Fu and various Ken and the Department of Worship have all been included under one estimate. The Reserve Fund has heretofore been divided into various particulars and included with the annual expenditures, but the nature of this account being different from that of others, it has this year been made a separate table. The great increase in the Home Department has been on account of the issue of bonds in exchange for pensions, or of the amounts borrowed to meet the expenses of the expedition against the rebels, or of the issue of paper money. The interest upon the various grades of bonds is shown at the end

of the tables.

The government has temporarily borrowed 15,000,000 yen of these bonds, upon which is paid interest at 5 per cent.—also, the bonds issued in exchange for the old *kin saten*, in all 2,103,950 yen, at 6 per cent. interest. These are not included in the record. Besides them, are other various classes of bonds, at 5, 6, 7 and 10 per cent. interest.

By comparison of the exact details of estimated income and expenditures for this year with those of the year preceding, the increase and the decrease are shown as follows:—

C COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE EIGHTH NINTH AND TENTH YEARS OF MEIJI, SHOWING THE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE SEVERAL ITEMS.

SOURCE	REVENUES.			
	10TH YEAR.	9TH YEAR.	DIFFERENCE 9TH AND 10TH YEARS.	DIFFERENCE 8TH AND 10TH YEARS.
Customs Duty and Miscellaneous Income connected therewith.....	Yen. 1,767,139	Yen. 1,762,454	Yen. 4,685 Inc.	Yen. 22,302
Land Tax.....	38,538,794	46,556,743	8,017,949 Dec.	12,967,173
Mining Tax.....	10,130	11,055	925 Dec.	334
Tax on Official Income.....	79,251	93,575	14,324 Dec.	23,034
Tax on Hereditary and other Pensions.....	None.	2,198,914	2,198,914 Dec.	2,267,810
Tax on Productions of the Northern Provinces.....	377,576	370,592	6,984 Dec.	59,909
Taxation of Eiu Kin Han.....	46,656	34,925	11,731 Dec.	4,088
Tax on Sake, &c.....	2,412,029	2,378,859	33,170 Inc.	798,946
Tax on Tobacco.....	324,280	539,948	215,668 Inc.	234,280
Stamp Tax on Legal Documents.....	487,574	531,881	44,307 Dec.	47,343
Postage Stamps.....	750,000	652,894	97,116 Inc.	180,000
Various Stamp Taxes.....	262,928	523,588	260,660 Dec.	306,490
Miscellaneous.....	595,144	804,366	209,222 Inc.	112,239
Income derived from Mines.....	1,024,680	1,212,825	188,145 Inc.	473,368
Income derived from Railways.....	811,327	692,967	118,360 Inc.	130,908
Income derived from Telegraphs.....	208,020	163,853	44,167 Inc.	55,877
Income derived from Various Manufactures.....	377,707	385,710	8,003 Dec.	72,570
Income derived from Mint of Finance Department.....	770,800	675,240	None.	95,560
Sales of Government property.....	592,933	692,772	99,839 Dec.	376,023
Beast of Government Lands and Buildings.....	171,727	189,713	18,986 Inc.	26,059
Income derived from Forests.....	125,426	129,769	4,343 Dec.	241,844
Miscellaneous Revenues not derived from Taxes.....	377,551	1,026,849	1,558,796 Dec.	1,176,185
Repayment of Debts due to Government.....	1,144,767	1,325,496	3,087,728 Dec.	1,892,961
Total Estimated Revenues.....	51,256,439	62,986,649	11,730,210 Dec.	17,831,887

EXPENDITURES.

OBJECT.	EXPENDITURES.			
	10TH YEAR.	9TH YEAR.	DIFFERENCE 9TH AND 10TH YEARS.	DIFFERENCE 8TH AND 10TH YEARS.
Reduction of Domestic Debt.....	Yen. 15,810,558	Yen. 873,500	Yen. 15,938,058	Yen. 13,294,376
Reduction of Foreign Debt.....	1,770,498	3,796,819	2,026,321 Inc.	12,073,739 Inc.
Imperial Expenditure and Payments to H. M.'s Relations.....	292,705	1,814,638	1,521,933 Inc.	44,140 Dec.
Various Pensions.....	292,500	827,500	535,000 Inc.	46,000 Inc.
Dai Jo Kuwan.....	434,000	17,905,877	17,471,877 Inc.	17,622,651
Gai Jo In.....	146,300	207,000	62,700 Dec.	201,500 Dec.
Kawaigi In.....	None.	207,000	207,000 Dec.	68,700 Dec.
Foreign Department (Gwai Mu Sho).....	175,500	30,000	145,500 Dec.	30,000 Dec.
Home Department (Nai Mu Sho).....	1,602,160	185,800	1,416,360 Dec.	10,100 Inc.
Finance Department (O Kura Sho).....	1,538,100	2,648,716	1,110,616 Inc.	1,046,616 Inc.
Navy Department (Riku Gun Sho).....	5,850,000	1,798,600	4,051,400 Dec.	260,500 Dec.
War Department (Kai Gun Sho).....	3,217,500	7,250,000	4,032,500 Dec.	1,400,000 Dec.
Educational Department (Mon Bu Sho).....	1,170,000	3,549,700	2,379,700 Dec.	332,200 Inc.
Old Dept. of Religion (Moto Kio Bu Sho).....	None.	1,704,800	1,704,800 Dec.	531,800 Dec.
Public Works Department (Ko Bu Sho).....	2,925,000	73,000	2,852,000 Dec.	73,000 Dec.
Judicial Department (Shi Ho Sho).....	1,248,000	4,900,000	3,652,000 Dec.	1,975,000 Dec.
Imperial Household (Ku Nai Sho).....	273,000	1,420,500	1,147,500 Dec.	172,500 Dec.
Colonization Department (Kai Taku Shi).....	1,457,100	316,000	1,141,100 Dec.	43,000 Inc.
Land Tax Bureau.....	146,300	1,905,680	1,759,380 Dec.	443,560 Dec.
Post Office Bureau.....	1,049,000	471,000	578,000 Dec.	324,700 Inc.
Fu and Ken.....	3,823,220	1,051,096	2,772,124 Dec.	2,096 Inc.
Bureau of Police.....	1,072,500	4,162,500	3,090,000 Dec.	339,280 Dec.
Local Police.....	929,246	1,195,000	265,754 Dec.	122,500 Dec.
Shrines and Constructions in Fu and Ken.....	180,800	750,000	569,200 Dec.	179,246 Inc.
Repairs and Constructions of Dykes in Fu and Ken.....	550,000	220,000	330,000 Dec.	39,400 Dec.
Legations and Consulates in Foreign Countries.....	1,416,500	239,000	1,177,500 Dec.	311,000 Inc.
Miscellaneous Expenditures.....	500,000	1,400,000	900,000 Dec.	16,500 Inc.
Loans by the Government.....	376,722	548,300	171,578 Dec.	43,300 Dec.
Reserve Fund.....	2,080,000	559,051	1,520,949 Dec.	182,329 Dec.
Total Estimated Expenditures.....	51,256,439	62,986,649	11,730,210 Dec.	17,831,887

According to these comparative tables, the revenues and expenditures of previous years, as above, will be seen to have gradually decreased from the eighth year of Meiji, in the following manner:—			
The entire revenue of the 9th year was 8,153 per cent. less than that of the 8th year, and that of the 10th year was 18,634 per cent. less than of the 9th; and, furthermore, 25,269 per cent. less than of the 8th year.			
The entire expenditure of the 9th year was 8,036 per cent. less than that of the 8th year, and that of the 10th year was 18,632 per cent. less than of the 9th; and, furthermore, was 25,171 per cent. less than of the 8th year of Meiji.			
TABLE OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE YEAR FROM JULY OF THE 10TH TO JUNE OF THE 11TH, YEAR OF MEIJI.			
REVENUES.		Yen.	Yen.
I.—Duties of the 1st class			
Customs Imports and Exports Dues ...		1,733,724	1,767,139
Yokohama	1,300,043		
Kobe	292,407		
Osaka	22,084		
Nagasaki	100,111		
Niigata	72		
Hakodate	19,007		
Miscellaneous Customs Revenues ...			
Yokohama	16,036		33,415
Kobe	6,458		
Osaka	940		
Nagasaki	8,373		
Niigata	101		
Hakodate	908		
II.—Duties of the 2nd class			
Land Tax	38,538,794		39,052,407
Mining Tax	10,130		
Tax on Official Salaries	79,251		
Tax on Products of Northern Provinces	377,576		
Taxation of Ru Kin Han	46,656		
III.—Duties of the 3rd class			
Duty on Sake, etc.	2,412,029		4,831,945
" Tobacco	324,280		
Stamp Tax on Legal Documents, etc.	487,574		
Postage Stamps ...	750,000		
Total Estimated Revenues.....			
			51,256,439
EXPENDITURES.		Yen.	Yen.
I.—Reduction of National Debt ...			
Domestic Debt	15,810,553		17,581,046
Capital	1,959,221*		
Interest	13,851,937		
Foreign Debt	1,770,438		
Capital	774,954		
Interest	986,726		
Commission	8,803		
II.—Annulment of Imperial Household and Family			
		873,500	
III.—Pensions for Meritorious Services, Shrines, Temples, etc.			
Retiring Pensions to Soldiers of Old Imperial Body - guard		107,942	
and of Permanent Garrisons		167,043	
Pensions to Shriners and Temples			
Limited Pensions of under Two Years, to be paid in ready money according to the Bond Stipulations		7,720	
IV.—Expenditures			
Sho, Shi and Kiyoku		292,500	
Dai Jo Kuwan		146,300	
Gen Ro In			21,080,400
Foreign Department		175,500	
Home Department		1,602,100	
Finance Department		1,538,100	
War Department		5,850,000	
Navy Department		3,217,500	
Educational Department		1,170,000	
Public Works Department		2,925,000	
Judicial Department		1,248,000	
Imperial Household Department		273,000	
* 880,056 yen being the amount of bonds that are to be paid with ready money.			
Colonization Department			
		1,457,100	
Land Tax Reform Office			
		146,300	
Post Office			
		1,049,000	2,823,220
V.—Fu and Ken			
		2,001,746	
VI.—Police			
Bureau of Police (Keishi Kiyoku)		1,072,500	
Two Fu and Thirty-five Ken		923,246	180,600
VII.—Shrines			
VIII.—Repairs, Constructions and Dykes			1,966,500
Repairs and Constructions		550,000	
Dykes		1,416,500	
IX.—Legations and Consulates in Foreign Countries			
			500,000
X.—Miscellaneous Expenditures ...			
French Exhibition Loans for Relief and for Promotion of Industry		213,242	876,722
Sundries		163,480	
Total			
			49,176,439
In addition to the above is to be reckoned the Reserve Fund			
			2,080,000
Grand Total of Estimated Expenditures			
			51,256,439
There is no excess nor deficiency of Revenues or Expenditures.			

NATIONAL LIABILITIES.

HOME DEBT.		Yen.	Yen.
Bearing Interest.			218,903,465
At 4 per cent.	11,450,950		
" 5 " " " " " " " " " "	46,174,165		
" 6 " " " " " " " " " "	27,056,195		
" 7 " " " " " " " " " "	109,454,155		
" 8 " " " " " " " " " "	16,204,725		
" 10 " " " " " " " " " "	16,204,725		
Without Interest		9,868,466	
Paper Money in Circulation		121,054,731	
Total		349,826,661	

Showing an increase of 216,250,390 yen over the table of the 9th year, of various bonds and paper money in circulation; divided as follows:—

	Yen.
Bonds.	174,141,840
New and Old Bonds.	108,550
Indebtedness.	15,000,000
Paper Money in Circulation.	27,000,000

The bond indebtedness has been reduced by 1,156,055 yen since the 9th year of Meiji; distributed as follows:

	Yen.
New Bonds.	400,000
Old Bonds.	223,605
Bonds for Exchange of Kin-satsu.	132,850
Bonds of Nobility and Gentry.	399,850

The sum of 37,275 yen is to be credited to reduction of the bonds to nobility and gentry.

FOREIGN DEBT.		Yen.	Yen.
Total.			13,399,016
At 9 per cent.	2,440,000		
" 7 " " " " " " " " " "	10,949,016		

The foreign debt has been reduced by the sum of 756,400 yen since the 9th year of Meiji.

Total of Domestic and Foreign Debt.	Yen.
	363,225,677

RESERVED FUND.

	Yen.
Total.	39,081,538,059
Contingencies of Local Govern'ts.	729,884,685

In addition to the above Yen 8,067,295,749 have been devoted to government loans.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

[Among the various erroneous statements and rumours to which currency has been lately given here, respecting this newspaper and its proprietor, there is only one which it appears to us necessary to notice:—an insinuation that the Japan Times, or its copyright, is not the property of its present conductor, but belongs to the Mail.

The facts are perfectly simple. In 1870 the Japan Times was sold to Messrs. Lay and Howell for a certain sum of money in cash, and an annuity until 1880, during payment of which the proprietor of the Japan Times engaged only to write, in Japan, for the Japan Mail. In 1875, five yearly payments of this annuity still remaining to be paid, an arrangement was concluded between Mr. Howell and his annuitant, by virtue of which the former paid to the latter a sum amounting to two and a half year's dues, the receipt given for which declared the agreement to be cancelled.

In a private note in which this receipt was enclosed, the writer voluntarily, however, promised that—so long as Mr. Howell remained in Japan conducting the Mail, he should have the first refusal of any articles which he might write. But this was a purely friendly offer made to Mr. Howell personally.

It is very certain that the writer considered that, by giving up half the income he was to have had, and leaving Mr. Howell free to sell his Mail without that burden, he regained the liberty of his pen, and his firm belief is that Mr. Howell so understood the arrangement and so accepted his receipt.]

ONE most important point we have only been able to hint at in our essay on 'extra-territoriality'; and as it would have over-loaded our argument in those columns and requires almost a column to itself, for its proper

development and consideration, we by no means regret the necessity of its exclusion from our leader. We refer to the extremely curious and incongruous position in which the Government of Japan would find itself, were what it considers the boon of jurisdiction over foreigners conceded to it—in relation to those foreigners, who are holders of land at the Treaty Ports, and whose vested interests must necessarily be considered in the case of any such change.

While excluding foreigners, in an almost vexatious manner, from equality of dealing with natives; from the privilege of trading outside of the bounds of the settlements assigned to them; and even, as it seems, ungenerously confining their movements for mere purposes of sport or exercise, within narrow limits;—the Government has yet yielded, within small districts of its territory, a part of the prerogative which, in Western States, is most jealously guarded:—the right of inheriting land. Within the foreign settlements, land is granted to a man and his heirs for ever; and this constitutes the grantee a 'tenant in fee simple'; the greatest estate that is allowed to a subject (even in free England) to hold. The payment of rent does not destroy the principle of tenure; Rent, as ought to be well-known, is but one of the forms of service under which a tenant holds his land.

Now supposing the extra-territorial clauses annulled, and the Japanese Government 'rehabilitated in its sovereign right'—or 'placed on an equal footing with other nations to which its progress in civilization entitles it'—or endowed with equality with Western States in any other garment of magniloquent verbiage:—in face of what a dilemma would that unlucky Government immediately find itself! Either it would have to submit to a violation of one of the inherent rights of nations, which excludes aliens from inheriting land:—or it would have to get rid of the existing contracts and its tenants in fee, by one of two equally difficult processes,—purchase or forcible ejectment.

This is just one of the numerous points of detail which occurred to us as side issues when treating the whole subject in our leading columns. Repudiation of property—or purchase for millions of dollars? A little knot to be untied before attacking the main web, by Japanese journalists and foreign advisers, whose zeal to free the Japanese Government from the net of extra-territoriality seems to out-run, alike, their knowledge and their discretion.

WHEN the new penal code of India was first promulgated, the chief objection found to it by the natives was its impartiality. They complained that it 'treated women and children as if they were men!' The little care taken of the interests of women, in Japanese Courts of Law, was illustrated not long ago, in a case which will be within the recollection of at least our local readers. An application, the plaintiff stated, for the attendance of a witness necessary for the success of her cause, was excused, on the ground that a summons could not be granted against so august an official: it would be better, she was informed by the Saibanasho, if she herself tried, privately to induce his lordship to attend! The deficiency in Oriental chivalry, of the respect and tenderness for woman, which threw such a grace and lustre on that of Europe, is by no means counterbalanced by the splendid valour, contempt of death, and noble self-devotion to the feudal chief which form the basis of most of the tales of old Japan. Such degradation of European women in their legal status and household rights, would be by no means made up to us, if we had to live under Japanese jurisdiction, by the impunity with which our English rough could then ill-treat the miserable drudge unfortunate enough to be really his wife, or called his mistress.

WE regret, for many reasons, having had to write on the Extra-Territorial Question in a sense so adverse to the wishes of many earnest lovers of their country. To an autochthonous race like the Japanese, who combine in their character the instinctive pride and free spirit of islanders and mountaineers, the appearance, even, of limitation of their rule within their own boundaries cannot but be irksome; the more they see and read of European freedom, and the more they travel, the more they learn of International Law, still the more irksome and unjust must this restriction seem. And particularly when they find that England, America, France, or any other of their

Treaty friends, will not even listen to the proposition that in those countries Japanese should be put on the same footing as Englishmen, Americans, Frenchmen &c. in Japan: i.e. should be subject to Japanese law there and tried before a judge of their own nationality. It is true that some semblance of consideration for the alien is shown in our system of mixed juries, but this is very different from the *imperium in imperio* which we insist on maintaining for ourselves in Eastern countries. Another, and we think in some cases, the strongest objection to the extra-territorial clauses, is the stigma of 'semi-barbarism' which they appear to throw on countries where they are in force. If journalists and diplomatists had been a little more careful in their choice of words when these clauses were first introduced into Treaties, this cause of irritation would be spared. It must seem supremely ridiculous to an Oriental, who has the least smattering of knowledge of European history, to hear his ancient civilization, with all its curious growth of slow-blossoming art; with its records of sciences invented and forgotten centuries before their re-discovery in Europe; with its triumphs of architecture, broken little fragments of which we Europeans beg for, to ornament our cities; it must raise a bitter laugh, when such a man hears his country spoken of as 'semi-barbarous' by men whose ancestors, only a couple of thousand years ago, were running in and out of holes in the ground with nothing on but a coat of blue paint.

As we have striven to show—it is because the two forms of civilization are so entirely different, that laws and customs under which one people can be happy, would be intolerably irksome to the other. No calm thinker in Europe but recognizes in the East the cradle of European civilization, indeed the cradle of European humanity: but Asia has stood still for many centuries, while Europe has been moving, and it is for Europe now to repay the debt she owes. Unhappily, before she can do this, the ancient Oriental polities must break and crumble away under the shock of contact with hers; but though we Europeans recognize this necessity as inevitable, we can sympathize to the full with the bewildered Oriental who sees his prejudices and his household gods contemptuously tossed aside, and hears himself called a 'barbarian' by rude, rough strangers, destitute of the first elements of ceremonial politeness, and who know not the truth that the greatest happiness is to be found in repose.

It would have been easy enough for us to have avoided the subject; other writers have found it possible to take a different view of it, but only by resolutely shutting their eyes to that which we have presented to-day. For we cannot, we confess, understand, how any man, Japanese or foreign, with the capacity to understand an argument, can compare the two civilizations, European and Asian;—the civilization of the nomad patriarch, and the civilization of the free Teuton farmer;—as symbolized by their respective juridical systems and codes of laws; and decline acceptance of the conclusion at which we have arrived: that it is absolutely impossible for men born and bred in Europe to submit themselves to Asian law or rule.

Whether Japan will gain anything by de-Orientalising herself, and in the next generation of her people, adopting the European polity—and whether an Oriental race can ever undergo such a change as would be required for the process, are questions which we are inclined, ourselves, to answer in the negative. The best advice to give her on this whole question is, we think, contained in the proverb which has done good duty on many other occasions:—*'Quæta non movetur.'*

FROM conversation during the week, we are led to fear that we failed to make our main argument—in the article on 'Silk and Silk-worms' eggs,' as clear as might have been desired. It is objected that our proposed plan of limiting the production of seed to the actual requirements of Japanese themselves, is Protectionist, inasmuch as it tends to improve the position of the Japanese silk grower, at the expense of his Italian neighbour. But those who argue thus fail to see that,—whether Italy suffered or not, the trade generally would not suffer. It would not matter to the throwster or manufacturer whether his silk came from Italy or Japan, so long as he got it: and the indubitable gain to Japan of obtaining a monopoly (which is what she would ultimately get) of the production of the

special class of silk with which Nature has favoured her, is a legitimate gain to which she is fairly entitled, and one which we maintain she foolishly and unnecessarily makes a present of to Italy, who has got quite enough advantages of her own.

The gain we refer to is the enhanced price of Japan silk all round, which we maintain would result from Japanese silk-growers producing only enough eggs for their own use and resolutely refusing to sell any to foreigners. There is, of course, much to do here, in the careful selection and distribution of the best eggs, and in improvement in reeling, and education of the reelers on better models than their own, before Japan silk could become uniformly good and take the very high position, which we are certain it could ultimately reach. But the silk itself is indubitably of fine and peculiar quality: we really can teach the natives nothing respecting the 'education' of the worm, which they conduct with infinitely more care than ourselves; and it has been shown clearly enough at Tomioka, that they can learn to reel and that the silk reeled there is second to nothing in Europe. These facts acknowledged, and the corollary appears to us indubitable, that:—as soon as Europe understood distinctly, that no more eggs were to be got from Japan at any price,—and that the Japanese had settled down steadily to the improvement of their own silk, by the methods we have mentioned—then would Europe be ready to give a relatively higher price for the next new season's crop—according, of course to the circumstances governing the home market generally. And, as soon as Japan silk, improved as we have indicated, had asserted its position in the trade, then would its enhanced price steady to a figure varied only by the usual home influences. And that figure would be a high one. A certain quantity and quality of Italians would have to be displaced to make room for it; but we fail to see how it can matter to the buyer whence he gets his silk, or who grows it for him; and we equally fail to see how such a process as we recommend, of self-protection by the grower, can be confounded with fiscal protection by a Government, which is a totally different thing.

OF course, the above is mere brutal political-economy. But mercy and charity have no place in an exact science; and it is from the pure 'business' point of view that both our article of last Saturday and the above Note had to be written. In the practice of common life, however, benevolence does come into play: and no one ought to have the heart to argue that Japan should take advantage of Italy's distress, in the case of total failure of seed. Then, even other politico-economic rules become relaxed, and governments are allowed to do the work of traders. But, as a general rule, it would be the best policy for Japan to keep her silk seed to herself: when Italy or France is in distress for eggs, then there can be no objection to her parting with enough of the surplus which she had always on hand, or can easily produce, to supply the wants of her famishing neighbours. But, as matters stand at present, the silk egg trade is speculative, feverish, gambling; and as we have tried to show, its abandonment by the silk grower here would benefit him infinitely more than its continuance is ever likely to do.

WE received a message yesterday afternoon from Tokio, asking if it were true that Mori Arinori, the Japanese Envoy resident at Peking, had been assassinated. Mori's house is in the official quarter, close to the Tsungli Yamen, where he would be as safe as in Tokio. But at this time of year, the roads in the immediate neighbourhood of the capital swarm with banditti, and it is of course, possible that some accident may have happened to him, outside of Peking. That he should have been even attacked by a mob, as suggested by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, is highly improbable.

WE have still to ask our readers' indulgence for sins of omission and commission in this second number of the *Japan Times*. We have to thank some of our friends for corrections made in our very imperfect issue of last week, which have been attended to. It will be quite impossible for us, before the beginning of the next month, to do all that we want to do, and to do it properly. If we might

enumerate the difficulties under which the paper has at present to struggle into being, the fact of its appearing at all would be acknowledged as next thing to a miracle.

During the past week, we have received the following
TELEGRAMS.

London, January 3rd, 1878.—The Colonial Minister, having received a deputation which waited on him, has declared that England is determined to have a voice in the settlement of the Eastern Question.

Terrible distress has been caused in South Wales by the closing of the different Iron Foundries.

London January 6th, 1878.—General Gourko continues advancing successfully with his troops.

Frequent public meetings are being held in favour of British neutrality in the present war.

London, January 7th, 1878.—The Russian Troops have captured Sophia.

Russia refuses to entertain any proposals for Peace until an Armistice shall have been concluded.

London, January 9th, 1878.—Despatches from newspaper special correspondents at the seat of war, announce that the Turkish troops have abandoned the Schipka Pass.

London, January 9th, 1878.—The despatches received from newspaper special correspondents announcing that the Turkish Troops had abandoned the Schipka Pass are unfounded.

The Turkish forces after having gained a Victory reoccupied Kurshumlie, and have driven the Servians over the frontier into Servian territory.

The Porte has consented to an Armistice.

Italy.—Rumours of the death of Pope Pius XI. are unfounded.

LONDON, 10th January, 1878.—Despatches report that the Russian troops have crossed the Balkans near Tecece.

ITALY.—The King of Italy is dead.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

"There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, Make brick:—"

Exodus V. 16.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter II. LOVE & DUTY.

EXILED from the court and deprived of all his property Ishikawa, with only his swords and a few parcels of gold pieces, wandered southward, led by some pleasant reminiscences of hunting excursions in happier days, till

reaching the province of Iga, he purchased himself a homestead in a valley where every season was beautiful.

Here, however, the simple country folk, finding nothing in their circumstances more remarkable than this man who had fallen from so high an estate, under such unwonted conditions, accustomed themselves to remember their township chiefly as his residence, until at last the "village of Ishikawa" replaced the name "Yonemura." Ishikawa himself being a single hearted man, in whom the appetite for pleasure was satisfied by the contentment his archer's craft afforded him, found little difficulty in adapting himself to his altered plight, and living quietly the uneventful remainder of his life, left to his heirs a tenement which, if not large, was at least undiminished by his own excesses.

Three hundred years brought the birth and death of twenty two generations, with their due share of vicissitude and misadventure, to the descendants of Sayemon; till at a time when all Japan was stirred by the rumour or the reality of war, the family was represented by a petty landowner, whose straitened circumstances hardly left him leisure to keep his ancestor's swords burnished. To him was born one child, Gorokichi, a fair faced boy with marvellous thews and a fire in his eye that promised small fidelity to the hoe and harrow. The old farmer, who still preserved the traditions of his family's greatness untarnished by the rust of toil or hardship, found himself visited by many dreams of deeds that would efface past miscarriage, as he saw his child's boyhood more than fulfilling the promise of his infancy, nor heeded much the village schoolmaster complaining that tilts with bamboo spears and assaults upon fortified hillocks gravely disturbed the youngster's devotion to the Chinese classics.

When the lad was 13 years old, his father obtained for him a place in the household of a powerful baron. Here the young page's handsome face and stalwart figure might have aided him well on the road to fortune, had they not been accompanied by a disposition so proud and wilful, that things pleasant as pursuits became irksome as duties, and the very semblance of an order awoke a wish to resist. Careless of every thing except fencing, he was often unable to doff the mask and gauntlet, in time to kneel in the porch at the entrance or exit of a visitor; so that finally, discarding all the paraphernalia of the school, he studied, cut and countered, bareheaded and barehanded, thus acquiring at once skill and nerve, that soon enabled him to cope with the magnates of the art. But beyond this he did nothing. Those whose office he should have shared, found that he did not value his position at a moment's self restraint, and soon learned to refrain from remonstrances that only ended in blows. After a few months therefore, Gorokichi was sent home to his father with two fencing diplomas and a half healed sword-cut on his shoulder.

The old man finding that his son made no attempt to explain his return, was content to think that no explanation was necessary, and merely disposed himself to find some more fortunate situation for the lad, an object easily achieved, since the times were so prodigal of life that the dead constantly demanded new duties from the living. But the result was the same. Gorokichi came back within a hundred days, this time with very unequivocal evidence of disgrace. Another and yet another essay induced issues differing only in the time they required to mature, till at last the old man, unable to escape the conviction that he should find no joy in his son beyond the false promise of his childhood, lay down within sight of the cenotaphs of his ancestors, and died of a broken heart.

Gorokichi, seeing himself alone in the world, sold his house and the acres in which it stood, and with the same sword his ancestor Sayemon had carried into exile, but a smaller store of gold pieces, went out to seek his fortune.

During three years, he wandered from place to place, fighting now under the orders of some knight or noble, now under those of his own fierce temper; but always fighting and always victor, till his conduct becoming as infamous as his swordsmanship was famous, he found himself at last excluded from everything but desperate services. Thus at twenty, though never for a moment doubtful of his own ability to succeed, he began to believe that his feet were not formed to travel the common road to fortune.

Now at that time there was living in the neighbourhood of Gorokichi's native village, a wealthy knight, by name Momoji Sandayu, justly renowned for his skill in all martial exercises, but more especially remarkable as the represent-

ative of an art which had developed gradually in its transmission through many generations of his family, and attained perfection in his own practice; an art whose mysteries are as obscure to-day as they were three thousand years ago, when Sompin, its first master, caused rocks to rain upon the heads of the banditti, and Soiken's fishing rod, transformed into a golden carp two fathoms long, carried him to the hitherto unvisited "island of sweet grasses."

Unlike these adepts, Momoji's name is not associated with any singular exercise of his craft. It would seem indeed that he only once really applied its theory, but the result of that application is intimately connected with this history.

It was at Kiyoto, where he had gone to pay his customary visit of ceremony to his prince Hanayama, in the fall of the second year after the death of Gorokichi's father. A gold incense burner of the most excellent design and workmanship, which the prince had received from the hand of the Emperor himself, had disappeared, and Momoji arrived just as the unsuccessful result of a second day's search had thrown the palace into a state of the greatest confusion and distress. To Hanayama, the loss of the Emperor's present assumed the complexion of a most ill-omened misfortune, and at his earnest request Momoji charged himself with the recovery of the missing *bijou*. By the aid of his "art of stealth-craft" he succeeded in making his way into one after another of the vassals' apartments, and on the fifth night of his search, discovered the incense burner hidden behind the surbase in the room of the prince's jester.

Hanayama's delight at this event was only marred by the difficulty of discovering a suitable reward for Momoji, whose station and affluence forbade trivial treatment. It chanced, however, that there was blooming at that time in the palace a flower fair beyond the measure of conception; Shikibu, the princess' favorite attendant, whose first distinct memories of life, associated as they were with the fearful death by fire of both her parents at the sack of the castle of Misaka, had awoke in her eyes a look of timid entreaty that moved the heart more strongly, than even the faultlessness of her form and figure. If such a transient vision of these graces as one chance meeting in the vestibule afforded, had been able to transform Momoji's life during the past year into an endless craving, and turn away his heart from the caresses of his young wife, it may well be conceived with what rapturous gratitude he accepted the maiden as the guerdon of his small services. Leading her home to his country house, he lavished on her every attention that affection could suggest, and occupied his hours with offices of love.

These things happened but a few months before the day when Gorokichi, his resources and his opportunities alike exhausted, found himself visited by that instinct which in times of trouble turns the hearts of all sentient beings to the places of their childhood. He determined to return to the village of Ishikawa, not indeed with any certain prospect of better fortune, but because he had always been happy there, and because much experience of failure had disposed him to falter at the verge of fresh efforts.

His road led him within half a furlong of a large house almost buried in a forest of cherry blossoms, for it was the third month of spring, and as the soft wind came up from the south and passed him on its way to the glory of the flowers, he followed it mechanically, scarcely at first observing where it led him, but presently recognizing the dwelling of Momoji, one of his father's staunchest friends.

As he neared the house, threading his way among the mottled trunks of the cherries and over the half awakened germs of the lily and narcissus, the voice of a woman, sweet and sonorous, came to meet him, confused at first by the distance, but gradually adapting itself to the words of the old refrain:—

"Breathe on me once more with thy breath,
"Show me once more thy perfect form,
"False love that maketh winter warm,
"And death a blessing at thy death.

"Thine be the grief of him that grieves,
"And thine the curse of those that moan;
"For ere thy coming who had known,
"The emptiness thine absence leaves."

The singer, seen through the parted branches of the cherries, seemed a girl of some twenty summers. She had

apparently been washing her hair, for it was unbound, and falling in thick masses over her shoulders, bare and white as ivory, wandered like a shadow across the veranda on which she was seated. She was more handsome than beautiful. The very perfection of her features seemed to forbid all access of disturbing sensation, while her limbs and frame, though exquisitely symmetrical, were almost too muscular and well knit to be feminine. As she sat thus upon the veranda, her lips parted by tones less plaintive than complaining, her deep eye troubled by a hidden tear and her hands locked with nervous force, she seemed to Gorokichi one of those heroines of old whose histories have grown into household fables. He forgot that he was a stranger, forgot the reception likely to be accorded to a man armed and travel-stained, forcing his way through a cherry grove to the women's apartments at the back of a house, and with eyes full of marvel and lips shaping admiration advanced straight towards the girl.

Nor was he surprised to see that, as she drew her robe over her shoulders and threw back the cloud of her hair, a slight access of colour was the only demonstration his approach produced: any nervous gesture or evidence of weakness could hardly have found expression among such rich endowments.

Recalled to himself by her inquiring look, he said:—"I am afraid you will think my unceremonious approach very rude, but I pray you to attribute it to the influence of such a sight as I have never before seen. I desired to pay my respects to the master of this house, an old friend of my father's, when passing by the back, your voice turned my feet in this direction."

As he spoke thus, bestowing no attention on what he said, but all absorbed in his contemplation of the figure before him, that unerring perception that reveals to a woman the first disorder of the heart she has touched, quickened for a moment her dispassion, and showed her Gorokichi as indeed he was, one of the comeliest gentlemen in all Japan; fair faced, clear eyed, a finished unity of grand muscle, supple grace and that fearless carriage gained only by much and successful contact with danger.

She answered, "I am Miné, the wife of Sandayu, whom you seek. If you follow to the right the path on which you now stand, it will lead you to the entrance, and I will at once tell my husband of your visit."

Saying this, she rose and entered the house. Gorokichi turning quickly, like a man who had surprised himself by some involuntary action, made his way round to the vestibule, and calling lustily for admittance, was presently shown into the presence of Momoji, who received him courteously, and spoke to him of his father and the hopes the old man had not lived to see realized. Then, after a pause, looking kindly but searchingly at his visitor, he said:—

"Gorokichi, if I seem inquisitive, I pray you to think that my words are but the echo of an old intimacy. You will easily understand that I am not ignorant of your early history, nor slow to guess from your return thus, after three years of an absence prefaced by the sale of your inheritance, that you have not as yet found what you seek. Am I right?"

"Yes," replied the young man, "you are right. But if I have not found what I seek, neither have I seen any that ought not still to be seekers."

"You have then travelled oftener with trouble than fortune, since you left your native place?"

"Sir Momoji," answered Gorokichi, scarcely concealing the impatience he always felt at being questioned, "success alone justifies a confession of previous failures. I had rather looked to be taught by you, that one should recall from the past nothing but what one needs in the present, than to be questioned on what is irrevocable."

Momoji, repelled for a moment by this ungracious reticence, detached his pouch from his girdle, and quietly filled his pipe before resuming the conversation.

"Ishikawa," he said at length, "I do not demand a confidence that I am not prepared to give. My own feet are trammelled by a weight so pleasant that in losing all wish to free them, I have also abandoned all ambition, and

* What this art really was, I have never been able to ascertain. Its practice seems to have consisted in the finesse of highly trained muscle, but its professors have long ceased to exist, and their achievements have passed into the land of miracles. F.B.

only now look to leave behind me some fitter representative of the art I have inherited. If you have formed no more promising project, I offer you a place here among my pupils, not only for the sake of the friendship I bore your father, but also because of the hopes I shared with him about your career."

"I accept your proposition, Sir Momoji," replied Gorokichi after a moment's pause, "and thank you for the kind feeling that prompts it. At the same time I must confess that since pure chance has guided me here, I now merely follow my constant principle of taking what chance offers, and do not pledge myself to anything more than the duties of a pupil to a teacher."

It was thus that the man ignored all moral obligation, acknowledging no force superior to that of circumstance, and his whole life was so consistently true to this creed, that his story is rather that of his times than of himself. Another than Momoji might have recoiled in the presence of so little that was trusting or trustful, but the knight's naturally kind heart was so full of love for the maiden he had carried home from Kiyoto, that he found nothing in men's failings but an opportunity to be benevolent.

To us, looking back upon deeds that loom almost fabulously large through the mists of time and tradition, it is not surprising to find that, from the day of his enrolment among Momoji's pupils, Gorokichi occupied the place his singular endowments could not fail to attain. He was not only acknowledged chief by his comrades, but also in the science of the school, he very soon because his master's master. Momoji, seeing that any effort of his own could hardly emerge from the shadow of his *protégé*, cast a willing balance between love and ambition, and divided his time in rather unequal proportions between Shikibu and his pupils.

Nearly two years passed thus. Gorokichi had not forgotten the vision he saw across the cherry boughs on the evening of his arrival; but he was for the nonce so completely absorbed by the pursuit of his new science, that his thoughts seldom travelled beyond the precincts of the school. Moreover he had never again seen Sandayu's wife. That she was in the house, he knew from the occasional talk of the domestics, but neither at season feasts, nor on Saints' days, did she ever appear, and her very existence might have been forgotten, were it not that Shikibu sought by a thousand little devices to restore to his wife the consideration Sandayu himself neglected to pay her. It was easy to see that the gentle-hearted girl felt the pain she unwittingly caused as much as Miné herself.

Arrived however at the limit of his master's art, Gorokichi began to be visited by his old craving for adventure, and sometimes returning from the chase, sometimes from the revel, found himself often in the cherry grove behind the women's apartments.

Thus it happened that, crossing the shadow of the trees one winter's evening, when the frost's breath was just beginning to sparkle in the moonlight, his feet were arrested by a sound that never fails to move a man's heart, the sound of a woman sobbing. In a moment he saw her again, alone with some great sorrow, her face buried in her hands and her shoulders heaving in the violence of her emotion. He came quite close to her, for the sound of his feet was muffled by the snow, and after watching her for a while said half musingly,

"Do you then love him so much, Madame?"

She looked up quickly, but not too quickly to have recovered her proud self-command, and though he could see that her lips had begun to shape an angrier expression, she merely answered:—

"You will hardly say this time, Sir, that you have mistaken your way."

"Madame," he replied, "your voice led me then, my own heart leads me now."

There was no room to question the meaning of his words, and he could see that she understood their value, for her voice was softer and a little troubled when she spoke again:—

"If what you say be true, I ought not to listen to it; but it scarcely seems to me that his ardour is very great, who lingers two years upon so short a road."

"Pardon me," he answered, "but you do not judge quite rightly. Remember rather how strong must be the feeling that speaks where reason has kept it silent for two years. When I first saw you, I knew nothing of your posi-

tion in this house, and I loved you before I had learned anything that forbade me to tell you of my feelings. If I do so now, it is not because I am less conscious of what I owe to my teacher and benefactor, but because he himself has absolved me from my duty by neglecting his own to you."

"And in what, Sir, do the relations between my husband and me concern you?" she asked, flashing into sudden anger at the thought that her unhappiness should be the subject of a stranger's comment.

"Madame," he replied, "they concern me in this, that you have become a part of myself. Something calmer than my heart tells me that with you rests an influence strong enough to sway my whole destiny, and I, who have never yet raised hands of entreaty to God or man, pray you thus on my knees to let me repair that accident which saddened the song I first heard you sing, and summoned the tears I saw you shed to-night."

He spoke with much fervour, kneeling in the snow, his clasped hands raised before him, and after his words had ceased to be articulate, his lips still continued to shape, again and again, those formulae with which men are wont to urge their most passionate appeals. Few women could have resisted such a prayer made by such a man, and least of all this slighted wife, whose miserable history shows her to have been capable of everything but the restraint of her own affections. From that night, the story of their lives was only a repetition of what has been written on every heart since the Gods first discovered the imperfections of a single sex.

Momoji saw nothing of his wife's altered mien. She had long become an object of complete indifference to him, and though he observed his pupil's unusual absences from the gymnasium, he attributed them entirely to the fact that Gorokichi found nothing more to learn there.

Early in the following spring, Momoji was summoned by business to Kiyoto. On the evening after his departure it happened that Shikibu, passing along the corridor at one end of which her own apartments lay, noticed that the door of Miné's sleeping room was only partly shut, and half carelessly, half curiously, looked in as she went by.

Sandayu's wife was in the act of closing the drawer of a cabinet from which she had evidently taken the article she held in her hand. That article was a pad such as is usually inserted in the back hair of married women.

Shikibu had reached her own room and summoned her maid to light the night lamp, before she began to be tormented by the difficulty of accounting for what she had seen. It was impossible that Miné could think of having her hair dressed at such an hour, and yet, this supposition excluded, the destination of the pad became entirely inconceivable. Shikibu did as most women would have done under the circumstances; unable to think, she acted.

Midway between her own room and that of the mistress of the house, a passage leading to the foot of the watch-tower debouched. The entrance of this passage lay just beyond the path of the dim light issuing from the half open door of Miné's room, and Shikibu, stealing out quietly with her sandals in her hand, enaoned herself behind one of the pillars of the passage, so as to see without being seen.

She had scarcely taken up her position, when the light was obscured by the figure of Sandayu's wife, who, having assured herself that she was alone, by a rapid glance up and down the corridor, drew the pad she held in her hand quickly backwards and forwards along the grooves of the sliding doors in the lintel and the sill, and the panel, gliding noiselessly along its oily path, left Shikibu to grope her way back in the darkness.

Mysteries where the heart is concerned are often most easily unravelled by a woman. Miné's disloyalty had scarcely been suspected by Shikibu till that moment, and yet she set herself to watch with eyes that already saw more than the outline of the discovery she was destined to make.

About two hours before midnight, a figure that might have been a phantom, so noiseless and measured were its motions, emerged from the passage leading to the watch-tower, remained one instant recognizable in a feeble ray of moonlight that struggled through a crevice, and then turning to the left disappeared in the gloom.

For a moment the longing to cry out and give the alarm.

almost overcame Shikibu. Was she justified in associating this figure so evidently fearful of detection with any action of her master's wife, and might not her reticence be presently the cause of some irrevocable disaster? But even while she reasoned with herself, a sound like the chirping of an insect came to her from the direction in which the figure had disappeared; the door of Miné's room, obedient apparently to this signal, sliding silently back, again gave exit to a little gleam of light, and from within passed a whisper of which the word "Gorokitsan" alone was audible.

Before the darkness was again complete, Shikibu knew that the man she loved was dishonoured in his wife and in his favorite pupil.

Within the alcove of her room, lay a miniature garden complete in all details of arbour, rockery and parterre. From the paths of this toy, she succeeded with some little difficulty in gathering a handful of gritty sand, and carrying this with much stealth and circumspection to the door of Miné's room, she strewed it along the groove that Sandayu's wife had so carefully oiled an hour before. Then making her way to the servants' quarters, she roused an old retainer called Kiubei, and telling him that her sleep had been disturbed by the opening of doors and other unbidden noises, desired him to come and keep watch till daylight in the passage outside the women's apartments.

Kiubei asking no questions, took his swords from the rack and followed his young mistress, who stationed him in the same place that had already served as a post of observation for herself.

The rays of dawn were just struggling on the horizon, when the grating sound of an opening door reached the ears of the two watchers. Shikibu, a dagger in one hand and a lantern in the other, sprang past Kiubei, and found herself face to face with the mistress of the house, who forewarned by the first particle of sand the door had encountered, closed the panel behind her and confronted the new comer, not indeed with complete calm, but much less disturbed than either of those she found before her.

Shikibu was not altogether unprepared for this position. She had already conceived the possibility of Miné's assuring herself that the coast was clear before dismissing her lover, and with a well feigned semblance of relief she lowered her lantern, and drawing back a step cried:—

"Oh! it is you, Madame. I had been so alarmed by noises in the early part of the night, that I asked Kiubei to keep watch, as we cannot be too careful in Sandayu's absence, and when your door opened just now, I felt sure that somebody had been lying concealed and was just about to force his way into your room."

Before half these words were uttered Miné had entirely recovered her self-possession. She saw at once how small a space separated her from intolerable disgrace, but the peril of her position only braced her faculties, and stirred in her fresh hatred for the frail girl who, having already perverted her husband's love, now sought to rob her of her reputation.

"You are very right, Shikibu," she said, "to be careful in my husband's absence, but if anything unusual disturbed you, your best plan would have been to desire an immediate search. Surely it is not in my room you expect to find an intruder. But in truth your city nerves have been, I suppose, a little unstrung. I advise you to go back to your own room and try to recover your composure. As for you," turning to Kiubei, "instead of sitting waiting till the thief comes to you, make a proper inspection of the whole house and report to me what you find."

Kiubei knew his mistress too well either to expect that she would vouchsafe any explanation of her conduct, or to be surprised that she did not invite Shikibu into her own room until at least his round was concluded. He therefore merely bowed and moved away in compliance with his orders.

Shikibu, too saw herself completely baffled. She had no choice but to retire, and yet she felt that her own and Kiubei's removal was contrived entirely to procure an opportunity for Gorokichi's exit. Filled with this idea she determined to watch from her door, and at all risks confront Gorokichi should he try to effect his escape before Kiubei's return.

But she watched in vain. She heard Sandayu's wife shut herself into her room, and knowing that it would be very possible to open the inner leaf of the sliding door

without encountering any of the sand strewn on the outer groove, she strained every faculty to detect the slightest noise, yet when Kiubei returned she was able to be quite certain that nobody had left the opposite chamber in the interim.

What was then her surprise to see Miné throw open her door at Kiubei's summons and invite him in to make his report! Shikibu could no longer restrain herself. Forgetting all deference for her master's wife, she ran out, and, uninvited, passed after the old man into Miné's room.

If what she sought were visible, she had not been there to see it, and this reflection might have enabled her to exhibit more anxiety than astonishment, had she been better trained to dissemble. As it was, her eyes, on their return from an amazed scrutiny of impossible hiding places, fell before the look of contemptuous triumph they encountered; the tones of Kiubei's voice seemed to drift gradually away to immeasurable distances, and almost before his report was ended, he found himself helping his mistress to raise Shikibu's fainting form.

It may be that Miné's cruel energy had already shaped the course she subsequently followed; it may be that her rival's momentary helplessness suggested ideas to be afterwards more fully developed. It is at any rate certain that when Shikibu recovered consciousness, nothing separated her from the reality of her suspicions more than the kind solicitude of Sandayu's wife, who, with every token of commiseration and concern, led her back to her room, and did not leave her till the roll of the morning drum reached them from the gymnasium.

(To be continued in our next.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'Japan Times.'

DEAR SIR,—I believe that some of your readers have been disposed to question the existence of "bells" in a Japanese house, as described in the 1st chapter of the "Times of Taiko."

The word translated "bell" is "sudzu" in the original. The "sudzu" was a plate of metal, brass, silver or bronze, (sometimes with a large admixture of gold, with was supposed to improve and strengthen the tone) pierced with holes, through which rings of the same metal passed freely, and one or more of these sudzu, suspended from a cord produced, when shaken, a tinkling sound. They were used in the houses of the nobility to summon the domestics &c., and thus correspond in every respect except form to our English idea of a bell.

From the sudzu is descended the "waniguchi," which is suspended before temple shrines and sounded by striking with a rope; while most of us are probably familiar with the "naruko," a rough imitation of the sudzu, constructed by means of a board and pendent pieces of bamboo, and often attached to the gate of Japanese dwellings.

For the rest, I can assure your readers that, so far as I am concerned, no item of these stories is imaginary. The details are all extracted from Japanese books; the description of the place at Kiyoto, for example, having been taken from an old and apparently authentic manuscript which I obtained with considerable difficulty.

Your very truly,

F. BRINKLEY.

Yedo, January 9, 1878.

EXTRACTS.

CHILDREN I HAVE MET.

A CHRISTMAS STORY, IN THREE CHAPTERS.

By JAMES PAYN.

CHAPTER II.

When my wife came down that night, after seeing the children put to bed, I was, of course, prepared to tell all that happened at the railway station; but to my surprise she did not pay much attention to the matter. When I ventured, however, to suggest that the careless Gibbins might not even turn up on the morrow to claim his own, she evinced considerable interest.

"What! George; do you really think it possible that the man may neglect his children to that extent? Why, if he doesn't come to-morrow, there would be no more reason why he should come the next day, nor, for that matter, why he should come at all."

"Even that of course is possible, my dear," said I. The poor little things will, in that case, keep Christmas with us, I suppose; one would hardly like to send them to the workhouse on Christmas Day."

"The workhouse! Who said a word about the workhouse?"

For the moment, I thought a piece of my nose was gone; I had never been so "snapped up" by my little wife before. "I was only hinting, my dear, that the law did not compel us to keep other people's children; and if the worst came to the worst, that we could get rid of these two little people."

"Get rid of them!" echoed my wife, with the clash and sharpness of a pair of shears. Who wants to get rid of them? Why, if a black kitten strays into the house, we keep it, because it is said to bring a blessing; and are not two such heavenly children as those up yonder a blessing in themselves! O George!" continued she, dropping her voice all of a sudden, and speaking quite soft and low, "I know you don't mean to be hard with them; you wouldn't have brought them home at all, had you done so; but if you had seen those two as I have just seen them, you could never have said a harsh word concerning them, even in jest. When Elizabeth and I had taken that wee creature's clothes off by the fire, and he was but in his little shift (for we had no night gown to give him—though I shall take care he has plenty to-morrow, if I cut up my own), he suddenly woke up, and as we were putting him to bed, cried out: "Where's Osey!" In an instant that sweet girl was at his side, and with her little arm round his neck. "Pairs!" said he. For the moment, I really thought the child had asked for fruit; and I felt quite ashamed that good thoughts had been so much farther from me than him, when I saw those little ones kneel down together by the bed side and pray. Rosey said the Lord's prayer aloud—such a mess as she made of some of the words! And yet they were more touching to listen to, than any I have heard from a reading desk—and Tosey repeated it after her. It seemed to me as though all the angels in heaven must have stopped their music to listen to them. Then they kissed one another—it was better than going to church to see them do it—and as we laid them down side by side, they dropped asleep in each other's arms."

"But, my dear Nelly," remonstrated I, "there is nothing to cry about, surely, in all that; it only shows they have been well brought up."

"But they've got no mother. Think of that!" sobbed my wife, who had by this time broken down altogether. "Little dots like that to be motherless, and to have a father like this Gig—Gig—Gibbins, who cares nothing about them!"

"I don't know that Mr. Gibbins is their father, my dear; and how, may I ask, did you find out that they had no mother?"

"Why, because they did not mention her in their little prayers. Do you suppose they would not have done so, had she been in existence? 'Dad bless us both and make us dood;' that was all they said, besides the Lord's prayer."

"And quite enough too, my dear," said I, softly; for somehow—I suppose it was because the little creatures had taken to me so trustfully—I was more moved than I chose to own.

"Oh, quite enough indeed," assented my wife, "especially since He has made them—as good as gold."

The use of that familiar metaphor—though it was not a little incongruous in its application—brought me back to the realities of life. "Fortunately, my dear," said I, we have plenty of money to support these little ones, whom Fate has thus thrown upon our hands, in case they have been really deserted."

"There is no chance of that," answered my wife dolorously, as though the desertion of small children was too delightful an idea to be realised. "Gibbins is sure to come to-morrow with his heartlessness and insolence (just as Jones did), to carry away his property—just as if they were so much luggage. If he does not, we are bound to advertise all about them. Moreover, there is their box: of course, if we don't hear from him soon, we must open that, and it is sure to contain something that will identify them, and oblige us to restore them to their belongings. O, George, dear George, what a wretch it will be to me!"

Then I began to understand that my poor childless wife had suffered that passionate affection for small children, which abides in all who are worthy of the name of women, to twine itself about our new comers, as creeping flowers upon dainty trellis-work will twine and grow till both are one; and for a moment I almost repented that I had opened my doors to those unexpected guests. "My darling," said I softly, "though Heaven has denied us children, it has given us another blessing—wealth; and if it would be any pleasure to you to adopt a child,—"

"No, no," interrupted she, sobbing; I should not care for that; but in this case it seems as if Heaven itself had sent us these little ones—all on a Christmas Eve too—and that sweet darling actually said 'Mum—mum,' and put his arms about me, as though I was his mother—and then, you see, he had never known his real one."

This was a true womanly touch, with jealousy as well as love in it, which I felt did not admit of reply. If Heaven had sent the children to us indeed, I might well have argued, Heaven would probably permit us to keep them in spite of Gibbins; but women draw no consolation from logic; indeed it is my experience that, in connection with the decrees of Providence, they even resent it.

I dreamt that night that I was the master of a national school, and that my wife was a baby farmer, and I was wakened in the morning by the most singular noise imaginable; it sounded like the chuckling of hens, the crowing of some infinitesimal bantam cock, and the splashing of something in water.

"Why, good gracious, my dear, there are poultry and ducks in the house!"

There was no reply; my consort was not by my side, but the crowing and chuckling continued, mingled with shouts of merriment, proceeding from the apartment above my head. When I heard laughter, I wish to be acquainted with the joke that has produced it, just as when one hears a cork drawn, one is inquisitive about the wine in the bottle, and I put on my dressing gown at once, and went quietly upstairs. The sight that greeted me in the spare room, hitherto solely dedicated to bachelor adults, was very remarkable. I had come upon a party engaged in a rite of baby-worship. My wife and Elizabeth were putting Tosey in his bath before the fire; while Rosey in a flannel dressing-gown ten sizes too large for her, was sitting on the rug in a rapture of appreciation. Tosey was standing up in the warm water, holding on to the edge of the bath, and apparently addressing some constituency in the most humorous manner and at the top of his voice. Every now and then a joke so tickled him that he cast himself backward, and was picked up pink and palpitating, only just in time, as it seemed to me, to save his life. The applause that succeeded each performance of this feat evidently gave him unbounded satisfaction; he had thrown off all his philosophy with his clothes, and was merely bent upon experiments with respect to the displacement of water, in which, to judge by puddles on the floor, he had been very successful. He acknowledged the accession to his audience in my arrival by a shout of laughter so shrill and small, and at the same time so full of triumph, that no musician on earth could—for expression at least—have competed with him; and then he said: "Hullo! all 'ight," and fell backwards under water. It was perfectly ridiculous that three grown persons and a half should have been so moved by so insignificant an object—yet we were all laughing as heartily as he. The little naked boy called Cupid could hardly have shewn himself more powerful than this his latest rival.

Presently, Christmas chimes began to peal from some bell-ringing steeple, and Tosey, standing in the water, and steadying himself by clinging to the side with one hand, held the other up—one tiny finger projecting from the rest—for silence. It was the prettiest "picture," as Elizabeth observed, one could conceive; or rather, it was a piece of living sculpture such as Nature, R. A. (Real Artist), could alone have executed. At the same time I felt my dressing-gown gently pulled, and looking down, I saw Rosey's sweet fair face turned upwards towards mine with parted lips. "A merry Kismas to you," said she, in a tone that had a music in it beyond that of any song, and with a look such as the angels use when wishing the like to one another.

"Only listen to the child!" cried my wife, delighted. That was just because she heard the bells, you may depend on it."

"Why, Rosey, who taught you to say that, my darling?" said I, stooping to kiss her.

"Dodo."

"And who is Dodo?"

Here all was blank again. Neither Rosey or Tosey could give us any information upon that point. Dodo was Dodo, whom not to know argued ourselves most ignorant. It was certainly not the bird who is the despair of natural-historians; but beyond that nothing could be discovered—until Gibbins turned up or the box was opened.

The enactment that makes a holiday at the post office on Christmas Day had my hearty concurrence that morning, for at least no tidings could come by letter which should demand a parting with our little guests. Every ring at the door, however, my wife informed me, made "her heart go," for fear it might be the herald of Gibbins; and it was not without some opposition on her part that I wrote out an advertisement for the Times, stating that two young children, answering to the names of Rosey and Tosey, were at present lodged beneath our roof, awaiting removal by their proprietor.

In leaving my address at the Railway station, I had done, she urged, all that was to be reasonably expected of me; it was there, if anywhere, that Gibbins would apply for the goods consigned to him, and to jog his memory, or to awaken his remorse for his neglect, was to fly in the face of providence, and run an uncalled-for risk, of losing the blessings it had vouchsafed us. If my wife showed herself somewhat lax in principle under this great

temptation, she, on the other hand, exhibited a keen sense of moral responsibility as regarded the children themselves. She sent into our neighbour, Mrs. Quiverful, for some Sunday toys—a message which produced a Noah's ark and a Mosaic puzzle—and decided upon supplementing their elevating effect by taking Rosey to church with us. The occasion was evidently a novelty to her, and so far a treat; but she was very loth to leave her brother, whose tender years put his attendance at public worship out of the question. The promise of hearing the organ, however, and (I regret to say) the unauthorised prospect of its having waltzing figures upon it, which was held out by Elizabeth, overcame her scruples, and to the astonishment of the pariah, our pew was for the first time embellished by the presence of a child. That many an eye was turned towards Rosey, as she sat with her little hand in mine, with admiring curiosity, was no reproach to our vicar's eloquence; no sculptured angel there, with hair blown back, and wings crosswise, no seraph painted on the pane, looked half so heavenly as she. Eager-eyed, she watched and listened, while the parson read, and the music rose and fell, but hushed as a mute bird. Only once did she break silence—when our doctor (according to his invariable custom) was called out from his conspicuous pew by his foot page, when she observed: "Look, look; there's a man broke loose," a remark that shook my gravity to its foundation.

In the afternoon I went down to the railway station under pretence of making inquiry about my luggage, but in reality to find out if there was any news of Gibbins. Those children were growing upon me so, that I felt it necessary to do my duty to their belongings—if belonging they really had—while the moral courage to do so still remained to me. My friend the inspector shook his head, and pronounced the whole affair to be "a plant" to get rid of the two children. They will be on your hands, sir, it's my opinion, until you think proper to send them to the work-house."

"You really think that, Mr. Inspector?"

"I am pretty sure of it, Sir," replied he despondently. "It is not the first time that such a thing has happened, to my own knowledge. Well, I am sure, sir, you are very kind."

"Don't mention it," said I, it's Christmas day, you know, and you have had a great deal of trouble about that luggage. Good morning to you."

"But you are going away without it, sir!" And so I was. I felt, in fact, but little interest, comparatively speaking, in the article in question, which, as happened, had arrived safe enough; and the sovereign I had given the man was for his "opinion," just as one gives a doctor or a lawyer one pound one for theirs—which are not generally so pleasant. Would it be possible, I wondered, to retain our little treasures by giving a pound or two to Gibbins himself? Was there any law against child-selling, as well as wife-selling, and if not, would Gibbins be authorised to treat? The loss of Tosey would, I knew, be to my wife a very serious blow, and however unreasonable it was in her to feel it, it was only my duty to avert, by all lawful means, such a catastrophe. As to Rosey, I confess the dear child had taken such root in my heart, that I could not bear to think of parting with her, and especially to persons who had shown themselves so careless of their responsibilities. I knew that my position both in law and morals was untenable—I was painfully aware that the whole transaction "would not wash," something must surely be conceded to the feelings of a parent; and was not I in loco parentis—which is the same thing as a parent—to that heavenly child. Tosey, too, had distinctly—or as distinctly as he could—claimed my wife as his mama, so that the chain of relationship might be said to be complete.

Nelly received my Christmas present with gratitude, but without enthusiasm: a fact which, considering it was a new bonnet, will give the measure, to any of her own sex, of the extreme preoccupation of her mind.

"A thousand thanks, my dear," said she. "But was there any news of Gibbins?"

Then I thought it was really time to administer to her a lecture upon the vanity of human wishes, and on the great improbability of their being gratified on the present occasion. I observed, how wrong it was of her, from every point of view, to nourish such vain and unprincipled expectations: in fact I used every argument which I had deliberately rejected myself, and, in the end, had the satisfaction of perceiving that we should never be divorced upon the fashionable ground of "incompatibility" of character, inasmuch as they had precisely the same effect upon her as they had had on me.

"Mum-mum will never part from her Tosey, will she?" inquired she (I must say very foolishly) of the child himself, who was playing at her knee. "Say, never, my own darling." He looked up with preternatural gravity, and delivered (in the character of a dignitary of the Court of Chancery) his decree against any such separation: "Nedder." At the same moment, Rosey stole her little hand in mine, and whispered: "Me tay too."

If Gibbins had turned up just then, in the imperative mood, I believe I should have put him in the water-butt and purchased a filter.

"But my dear Nelly," sighed I, "there is their box."

"I wish it had been lost, like the bonnet" answered she bitterly.

"Still since it is here, we are bound to open it, and thereby discover to whom these little guests of ours belong. We had better get it over at once, since every day will make it more difficult for you to part with them."

So that Christmas night, when the children were fast asleep in each other's arms—a sight as full of Christmas thoughts as any sermon—my wife and I had the box brought into the parlour. It had no lock, so I had only to cut the ropes with my penknife, to know our fate; for, indeed, it had come to that: with such unconscious magic had those little ones bewitched us in a day and night, that to part with them would not only have been a "wrench," but a catastrophe. Perhaps it was the blessed Christmas-tide—wherein above all seasons, little children assert their power—that had so worked with us; but so it was. A mother whose task it is to look over the clothes, or toys, or other "fond records" of some lost darling, must be one of the most pitiable of God's creatures; but to her at least the worst has come; the parting is over—whereas, to us this little box might be the cradle or grave of Hope. I felt that it was much more likely to prove the latter; it was to the last degree improbable that Rosey and Tosey should remain as such mere fairy-folk with fairy names—and nothing more, when we had made examination of its contents. Miss Rose Gibbins and Master Thomas Gibbins, of some seminary for young persons near Crewe, would presently be revealed to us in the most common-place fashion, and demand to be given up to their "friends." Nothing occurs, however, as the paradoxical Frenchman tells us, except the Unlooked-for. Not a scrap of writing, either on paper or linen, informed us of the personal identity of our little guests. Their Lilliputian garments, layer after layer of which we found arranged with the utmost neatness and order, were indeed all marked, but it was only with those names which Love, and not their god-fathers and god-mothers, had bestowed upon them—Rosey and Tosey. In some cases, it was worked upon the tiny linen in hair.

"They had a mother then," whispered my wife significantly; and though no mother herself, I thought her judgment just upon that point. Moreover, the handwriting, where the names were written, was fine and delicate, like a lady's hand, and not a servant's; though to my fancy (for this could only be guess-work) it lacked the firmness of health. I could not help building up the theory that the mother had been failing and failing, without the strength to do much more than this slight loving service; and Nelly thought the idea a probable one.

"In that case," remarked I, "the careful packing and disposal of the clothes must have been done by another."

"Of course," returned my wife: "after her death, poor soul."

"And yet we have not come upon a single article of mourning."

"The woman who took the mother's place was poor," answered Nelly softly.

It was likely enough. The mother had been poor herself, for though all the garments were in good repair, they had seen much service, had darts and patches in them; the latter, as my wife pointed out, let in with elaborate skill and care. The last layer was made up of baby-clothes, most exquisitely worked by hand.

"Good heavens," cried I "is there then a third?"

"No, no, these were Tosey's before he was short-coated. How nice he must have looked in them, dear little fellow!"

The tears of my childless wife fell fast upon the lengthy robe of state that had once enveloped Tosey's limbs.

"My darling," said I, you ought to be pleased, rather than cast down; for nothing has come to light as yet which demands our parting with the children. If Gibbins would only——"

"Look, look!" interrupted my wife, with a sharp cry. Below the last layer of clothes, and pasted on the bottom of the box, was a sheet of white paper, around which a clumsy attempt had been made with ink to rule a mourning border. In the centre of it was written, in a hand evidently unused to penmanship, the words "Pity the motherless."

"These children, then, have been bequeathed to us, my dear" said I after a pause. My wife was greatly affected, and I was just a little taken aback myself. "When you are quite calm and collected, Nelly," said I, "we must consider whether we shall accept the legacy."

I had for my own part quite made up my mind to "administer," as the lawyers call it; but I thought the expression of doubt would rouse her, and do her good.

"Dear George," said she, without taking the least notice of my remark, but still poring over those appealing words, "I think this is Dodo's writing. She is some faithful nurse, who finding herself unable to support these orphaned darlings, has sent them forth,

trusting to God's providence to find them home and friends—and they have found them. How happy, how thankful I feel! They will now be our own for ever!"

"My dear Nelly," said I, gravely, "do not too much encourage a hope which if it one day prove fallacious will be bitter in your mouth indeed. The children are not orphans, or Dodo would have stated as much. Pity the motherless, she says; that is (I fear,) those little ones who have no mother, but worse than no father—who have a father that has deserted them."

"But we will not desert them."

"By no means; only this man may turn up at any time, remember, and demand his own. Will you still accept them on such conditions?"

"I will," replied she, firmly. I look upon them as Heaven's own gift, and I believe that we shall be permitted to retain them."

"Very good, my dear; so be it," said I; but I had still my doubts, and grave ones.

(To be continued.)

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Mutton	" .16	to	.25	"
Veal	" .25	to	...	"
Pork	" .12	to	.16	"
Sausages	" .30	to	...	"
Beef—Japae. Butchers	.10	to	.16	"
Mutton	" .25	to	...	"
Veal	" .20	to	...	"
Pork	" .10	to	...	"
Sausages,,	" .20	to	...	"
Oysters	... .05	to	.10	per 100
Eggs	... .10	to	.15	per dozen.
Fowls	... .07	to	.10	each.
Chickens	... .15	to	.25	"
Geese	... .75	to	1.00	"
Wild geese	... .75	to	1.00	"
Pigeons	... .08	to	.10	"
Turkeys	... 2.00	to	3.50	"
Hen Turkeys	... 1.50	to	2.50	"
Deer	... .15	to	...	per lb.
Wild—boar	... .12	to	...	"
Hares	... .37	to	.50	each.
Pheasants	... .35	to	.40	"
Quail	... .08	to	.10	"
Snipe	... .06	to	.80	"
Woodcock	... .35	to	.40	"
Wild ducks	... .37	to	.40	"
Bombay Onions	... .07	to	.10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	... .10	to	...	per bottle.
Milk—European	... .125	to	1.59	"
English Coal	... 14.50	to	15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	... 8.50	to	10.00	"
Anthracite...	... 15.00	to	17.00	"
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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
JAN 7	Kworio Maru	Frank	Jap. str.	607	South		General	M. B. M. S. S. Co.
" 7	Evelyn	Knowles	Bri. barq.	650	London		General	Wilkin & Robison
" 9	Oceanic	Metcalfe	Bri. str.	3,700	San Francisco	Dec. 18	Mails & General	O & O. Co.
" 9	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong	Jan. 1	Mails & General	M. M. Co.
" 9	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	Jan. 7	General	M. B. M. S. Co.
" 9	Sunda	Reeves	Bri. str.	1,704	Hongkong	Jan. 3	Mails & General	P. & O. Co.
" 11	Lombardian	Chapman	Bri. barq.	781	Hongkong		Ballast	E. Fischer & Co.
" 12	Hiroshima Maru	Bardis	Jap. str.	1,870	Kobe	Jan. 10	Mails & General	M. B. M. S. Co.
" 12	Gaelic	Kidley	Bri. str.	2,756	Hongkong	Jan. 4	Mails & General	O. & O. Co.

Passengers:—Per British steamer *Oceanic* from San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Morrison, Messrs. E. J. Santa Marina, E. Jacobi, H. J. Flint, J. H. T. Roupell, T. Thomas and Mrs. Graves. For Hongkong: Miss Lizzie Bernard and Miss Clinton; and 1 European and 282 Chinese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Tibre* from Marseilles:—Messrs. Iwakura, Oki and Ikeda.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru* from Kobe:—Messrs. Johnson and Jamieson.

Per British steamer *Sunda* from Hongkong:—Dr. Junghanger.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Hart, Hattori, Naisaka, Hagart, Duplaquet, Sharm, Stein, Kobayashi, Yashima, Lieut. Knobloch, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Mitsui, Mrs. Whit, Messrs. Immura, Otsuki, and Nakaye in cabin; and 127 Japanese in steerage. For America. Revd. Mr. and Mrs. Dodd and 6 children, Messrs. O. S. Gilbert and Churchill in cabin.

Per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic* from Hongkong:—Messrs. T. Walsh and Oesterrick, one Chinese for Yokohama 108 for San Francisco.

Left Port for Japan:—From London for China and Japan ports:—S.S. "State of Alabama," Oct. 11; S.S. "Malabar," Nov. 3; S.S. "Galley of Lorne," Nov. 21; "Laura," Nov. 21.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Bertha Marion," July 30; "Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Sumner R. Mead," Oct. 26.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Anreola," Sept. 19.

FROM CARDIFF:—"Auriga," Aug. 11.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Hudson," June 8; "Hattie N. Bangs," July 3; "Midnight," July 27; "Ladoga," Sept. 20.

FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 28; "August," Oct. 16.

FROM PHILADELPHIA:—"S. K. Bearse," June 1.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

Loading for Japan:—S.S. "Glenorchy," S.S. "Lorne," S.S. "Caldera," S.S. "Cairnsmuir," "Devana," "Sir Harry Parkes," "Coulmakyle."

AT LIVERPOOL:—S.S. "Achilles."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. S. S. Jan. 26th, Hongkong M. M. S. S. Jan. 20th.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
JAN. 6	Takachiko Maru	Sikemeier	Jap. str.	1,407	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. S. S. Co.
" 8	Malacca	Smith	Bri. str.	1,707	Hongkong		Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 9	Dragon	Grevatt	Bri. str.	472	Hakodate		General	Jardine, Matheson Co.
" 9	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Shanghai & ports	Jan. 17	Mails and general	M. B. M. S. S. Co.
" 11	Oceanic	Firth	Brit. barq.	435	Nagasaki		Ballast	Jardine, Matheson Co.
" 12	Oceanic	Metcalfe	Bri. str.	3,700	Hongkong	Jan. 18	Mails & general	O. & O. Co.

Passengers:—Per *Takachiko Maru*, for Hakodate, left Jan. 6, Messrs. E. Dun, P. Schleuter, L. Boehmer, E. H. Duns, Riddle, Capt. Will, Mrs. O Tsuru, one Japanese lady and child.

Per *Malacca*, P. & O. Mail steamer, for Hongkong and Europe, left Jan. 8, Mrs. Enslie, Mrs. Hartley and three children and servant, Messrs. Maclay and Roper; fifteen Chinese and one Japanese in the steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagoya Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Takana, Mr. and Mrs. Norton, Messrs. Kasano and child, Van Oordt, Chira, Otsuzu, R. B. Cuthbertson, W. C. Law, J. Y. Twombly, Tsuchiya and child, Watanaki, Horiguchi, Ishizuka, and E. Popp.

Per British steamer *Dragon* for Hakodate:—Messrs. H. J. Snow and T. Ford.

Per Brit. steamer *Oceanic* for Hongkong:—Messrs. J. S. Swire and P. H. Halt.

Loading:—*Gaelic*, for San Francisco, 14th January.—O. & O. Co.

Volga, for Hongkong and Europe, 14th January M. M. Co.

Hiroshima Maru, for Shanghai and Ports, 16th January.—M. B. Co. For Kobe:—*Hiogo Maru* 15th January and

Kumamoto Maru 12th M. B. Co.

Messenger, for New York, quick despatch.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Mails Leaving For:—Hongkong and Europe M. M. str. *Volga* Jan. 13: for San Francisco, O. & O. str. *Gaelic* January 14: for Shanghai and ports M. B. M. *Hiroshima Maru* January 16: for Kobe, *Kumamoto Maru*, January 12; *Hiogo Maru*, January 15: for Hakodate, *Suminoya Maru*, January 12.

Cargoes:—Per P. & O. str. *Malacca*, Jan. 8, for London 60 bales Silk; for Italy 47 bales Silk.

Per Japanese str. *Nagoya Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$168,700.00; Treasure, Yen 6,600.00.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.
(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
* Feb. 5	" 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 3	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 13	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Alaska P. M. S. S.* due February 3.

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 13	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *City of Peking P. M. S. S.* sailing Jan. 29.

* The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

* No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

* Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

* Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y' HAMA.	DUE IN H' KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H' KONG.	DUE IN Y' HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	" 79 Jan. 3	" 79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	" 79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	" 79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via Marseilles.
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y' HAMA.	DUE IN H' KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H' KONG.	DUE IN Y' HAMA.
Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Mar. 5	77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 27	Feb. 3	" 19	Jan. 13	" 23	Mar. 2
Feb. 10	" 17	Apr. 2	" 27	Mar. 9	" 16
" 24	Mar. 3	" 16	Feb. 10	" 23	" 30
Mar. 10	" 17	" 26	" 24	Apr. 6	Apr. 13
" 24	" 31	May 10	Mar. 10	" 20	" 27
Apr. 7	Apr. 14	" 24	" 24	May 4	May 11
" 21	" 28	June 7	Apr. 7	" 18	" 25
May 5	May 12	" 21	" 15	June 1	June 8
" 19	" 26	July 5	" 29	" 15	" 22
June 2	June 9	" 19	May 13	" 29	July 6
" 16	" 23	Aug. 2	" 27	July 13	" 20
" 30	July 7	" 16	June 10	" 27	Aug. 3
July 14	" 21	" 30	" 24	Aug. 10	" 17
" 28	Aug. 4	Sept. 13	July 8	" 24	" 31
Aug. 11	" 18	" 27	" 22	Sept. 7	Sept. 14
" 25	Sept. 1	Oct. 11	Aug. 5	" 21	" 28
Sept. 8	" 15	" 29	" 19	Oct. 5	Oct. 13
" 22	" 29	Nov. 12	Sept. 2	" 19	" 26
Oct. 6	Oct. 13	" 26	" 16	Nov. 2	Nov. 9
" 20	" 27	Dec. 10	Oct. 6	" 16	" 23
Nov. 3	" 10	" 24	" 20	" 30	Dec. 7
" 17	" 24	" 79 Jan. 7	Nov. 3	Dec. 14	" 21
Dec. 1	Dec. 8	" 21	" 17	" 28	" 79 Jan. 4
" 15	" 22	Feb. 4	Dec. 1	" 79 Jan. 11	" 18
" 29	" 79 Jan. 5	" 18	" 15	" 25	Feb. 1

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

DOWN TRAINS.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	FARES.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	...	...	...
3 1/2	Shinagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	...	...	...
6	Omori	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	...	...	...
10 1/2	Kawasaki	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	...	...	...
12 1/2	Tsurumi	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	...	...	...
16 1/2	Kanagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	...	...	...
18	Yokohama	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	...	...	...

UP TRAINS.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	FARES.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
—	Yokohama	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	...	...	...
1 1/2	Kanagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	...	...	...
5 1/2	Tsurumi	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	...	...	...
7 1/2	Kawasaki	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	...	...	...
12	Omori	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	...	...	...
14 1/2	Shinagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	...	...	...
18	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	...	...	...

THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 3.]

January 19, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

TEA. 1877—1878.

ALTHOUGH, in the present article, we cannot furnish a full review for the season, still many points of interest present themselves which afford fair mark for comment, and the opening of the New Year seems an auspicious moment to pass briefly in review the course of last year's Tea market.

Up to the opening of the season in May, little matter of interest offers. The *Coulmakyle*, the last direct vessel of the year, had despatch for New York on March 17th; after which, steamer shipments dwindled down to mere nominal figures, and the record of 1876-77 was closed.

From the severe weather which we experienced during February and March, 1877, first musters of the new crop were rather backward in making their appearance, being fully a fortnight later than in the preceding season. As usual, first arrivals only represented "garden Teas" and afforded little or no reliable information as to the prospect of the coming crop. First arrivals of "new crop" came on about 3rd May, and were at once secured by sanguine buyers at prices varying from \$50 to \$56 per picul.

There seems something wonderfully attractive in first arrivals of new crop Teas. Year after year, the same rush, the same anxiety are exhibited, though most buyers should have learnt from experience that, ten days later on, the same goods could be procured at a reduction of \$10 to \$12 on opening rates. But this consideration never seems to influence their judgment, and we go on persistently in the same course, year after year, in a wild competition, disadvantageous alike to foreign buyer and Yokohama native merchant, which experience and warning seem alike powerless to stop.

At an early date in 1877, it was apparent that the Japanese were not bestowing their usual attention on the curing and preparation of the leaf, and many complaints were current about the difficulty of obtaining parcels that would fire into really desirable goods for the United States markets. The Teas were very mixed; the leaf lacked twist and finish, and, from some districts, many samples came in, showing signs of an undue application of fire heat in their curing, so much so as, in some cases, to seriously affect their final preparation here in foreign hands. Again, other chops were so slightly prepared, that they early showed signs of heating, from the amount of moisture remaining in the imperfectly cured leaf. To sum up:—the character of the generality of the first crop was decidedly inferior to the average of the two or three preceding seasons.

A large business was done during the months of May and June; settlements at the close of the latter month amounting to 40,000 piculs. Prices had now declined to a fairly safe basis for operations, standard Good Medium ruling at \$21 to \$22 per picul; but later experience shows that with an expected total export from Japan of twenty-

four million pounds for the season, Good Medium must not cost over \$20 per picul, if there is to be any margin left for profit, as the average quotation for new crop Good Medium is not over 27 cents per pound in the United States.

During the period onwards to the close of the year, business continued fairly steady, the principal feature worthy of comment being the disproportion in price of the commoner grades, which commanded extreme figures, considering the quality of the bulk of parcels brought down. It is much to be regretted that so great an amount, ranging from two-and-a-half to three million pounds of Teas, grading under standard Good Common, should have found their way this season to the United States, at a critical moment, when the American Tea Markets were just recovering from the evils of an over-export from this side, and consequent too great accumulation of stock at home. A large proportion of this common trash will be merely used for market speculation, and remain a dead weight, passing from the hands of one speculator to the other, as opportunity requires, but little actually going into domestic consumption. That these Teas are not cheap to the general consumer is easily demonstrable. Take the tenth part of an ounce of Common Japans, such as shipped this season, and costing, laid down in New York, about an average of twenty cents—and then take against it one sixteenth of an ounce of Good Medium Tea, costing twenty eight cents;—and any one will in a moment see that the better grade Tea is by far the most economical, without taking into account the great superiority of the flavour.

Another feature of interest deserving comment is the efforts the Japanese are making to produce Black Tea. So far, they have failed, although some reports from America go so far as to character the cup quality of some parcels shipped, as "approaching Assam flavour" but the many samples which have come under our notice, have not, in our ideas, shewn the slightest trace of anything like Assam quality; the Teas lacking the powerful, malty, burnt quality of the Indian Teas, and being faint and almost druggy in the cup, and likely to turn out very indifferent for long storing, as they speedily lose any little briskness they once possessed, and the liquor becomes apt to draw flat and almost sour. If the native producers would give their full attention to produce a high standard of "natural leaf" leaving the final manipulation necessary for shipment to the foreign buyer, their efforts would be in a right direction; but the idea of producing black Teas, bearing in mind the steady increase in the area and production of Tea plantations in India, can only be compared to an attempt in England to grow Wine. Such an experiment to a limited extent might prove successful; for it is certain that wine, of a sort, was anciently produced in England—*teste* the survival of the name of 'vineyard' in so many sheltered spots of old church lands;—but France could

always produce wine at a very much lower scale of price, and without the risk attendant on a precarious crop. Japan has found an ample market for her produce in the shape of "natural uncoloured Japans;" let her study carefully to preserve that trade, instead of ambitiously craving after the production of an article, to which soil and climate seem alike unfavourable, and tacitly shew themselves antagonistic to success. Several musters of Japan fired Teas, evidently fired and coloured according to the best ideas of native Teamen, have also come under our notice. To instruct our Japanese friends in the art of Tea firing is hardly within our province; suffice it to say that, had the leaf been sold in native packages in its unfired state in Yokohama, the result would probably have been on the whole better for all concerned.

A few remarks on figures must bring this sketch to a conclusion. Most native authorities, early in the season, were loudly demonstrative in favour of a short export; and even threatened that, unless prices improved, little or no third crop pickings would be made. Had this been the case, the foreign merchant would have been little or no loser, and the tea plants would have largely benefited from the respite granted. But the demand continues; fresh orders from New York come in and are executed; enabling our Export to creep up to, and even promise to exceed, the total of last season. Kobe shows a large increase: her figures standing roughly at eight million pounds to date, exclusive of shipments per last steamer, *Gaelic*, and amount already shipped on board the *Messenger*, making a total, in all not far short of eight and-a-half million pounds, an increase on corresponding figures, last season, of fully two-and-a-half million pounds.

Total export to date from Yokohama, including cargo of *Gaelic* and amount on board the *Messenger*, may be computed at thirteen million pounds, so that actual settlements of "fired teas" to date is not less than twenty-one-and-a-half million pounds against a total, at a corresponding period of last season, of nineteen-and-a-half million pounds.

How much more will be shipped during the balance of the season seems now a matter of pure conjecture. Fresh orders from the States have been received, and some even executed, on terms which show an advance of two dollars per picul in price, and quite the same amount in depreciation in quality, in comparison with parcels purchasable about the middle of last November.

The average price of Tea, as shewn by official figures for the past seven months of the Season, has been about \$19.50 per picul, a full high rate, considering the course of the home markets; and unless we see some improvement there, we must make up our minds to purchase Good Medium Teas at not over \$18 per picul, if we wish to show on the right side in the States; or else allow our enterprising native friends to have the barren honour of shipping to a market where it is almost certain to realize a serious loss.

THE JAPANESE CIVIL SERVICE.

IN the first number of this journal, we pointed out what we consider a radical error in the system of Provincial Government in Japan:—the 'delocalization' of officers. From feudalism in its extreme, the Government have rushed to the opposite evil of centralized despotism. They could accept from the Daimios the gift of their independent sovereignties, their lands, their fleets and armies: but they had not the courage to trust the Provinces, into which the ancient Daimiates were re-arranged, to the rule of the givers, in the changed capacity of servants of the Crown. Fully recognizing the value of arguments in favour of this centralizing policy, arguments maintained by men whose experience and sagacity entitle them to all respect, arguments which have, of themselves, much intrinsic weight and force,—we have yet to be convinced that they

over-bear those which we adduced against it, and we have therefore, indicated the line which,—should there be truth in the rumour of change of system—we think that the Government should pursue.

But, needful for either system, centralized or de-centralized, are proper tests of qualification for office, and regularity and method in the organization of the Civil Service, the want of all which is clear, and fatal to its efficiency.

The Naval and Military services of Japan do not come within the scope of our remarks. In these, the Japanese have gone the right way to work. By the engagement of competent foreign instructors, and the establishment of schools for the education of military and naval cadets, these services have been re-organized in a manner which reflects credit on all concerned, and which has already borne splendid fruit in the masterly suppression of the late revolt. And in criticising, as we have to do, to-day, the Civil Service of Japan, we would also grant honourable mention to the Railway, Postal and Telegraph departments, all which do their work satisfactorily, having had the same advantage of organization under skilled management, as the Army and Navy. It is with the Civil Service generally, as concerned with the people of the country, that we have to deal; and it is from sympathy with the people, and an honest wish for the country's welfare, that we write at all, upon a subject in which few but native readers will, we fear, take much interest.

In most countries of Europe, the Civil Service of the nation is open to all comers, who shall show, by means of approved tests, their attainment of a certain standard of education. In England, whose Constitution is happily described as "broadening down from precedent to precedent," these tests of fitness are severe, and the system of training for civil appointments elaborate and careful. Periodical examinations are held for appointments in the various departments of civil employ; for each separate branch of the service, a special and distinct standard of fitness is established; and, in proportion to the importance and dignity of each particular employ, the examinations vary in a scale of finely marked gradation, so as to admit all ranks of society into the service of the State, and at the same time to secure the best men for the most important offices. And in regard to some of the higher classes of civil employ, the successful candidate must complete a prescribed term of probation, before he is a permanent member of the service. In Germany, too, thanks to the liberal and thorough curriculum of the National Schools and Universities, the ranks of the Civil Service are recruited from amongst men of education and capacity; and the State can rely upon the fitness of its public servants, whether the tests employed be competitive or merely qualifying. It would be easy to multiply instances, but one other will suffice. If we turn to Japan's nearest neighbour, we see a similar system in force. In China, corrupt and defective as her public service is acknowledged to be, examinations have, from the earliest times, been part of the administrative system, and no candidate can hope to gain any appointment, whether military or civil, without passing the required tests, which in their own way are as severe as those in any European country.

We abstain, of deliberate purpose, from bringing into the category of comparison, Japan's other neighbour, on her other hand,—the United States of America. Had we been writing but one short year ago, we should have had to instance the Civil Service of this, another great English-speaking community, as affording the most striking contrast to that of England; to have adduced it as the 'frightful example' for Japan to avoid; as we are proud to be able to exhibit our own, as a model for her to imitate. But 'America's adversity is not England's opportunity,' and it is not when a great-hearted statesman like the new President, Mr. Hayes, is engaged in the Herculean task of strangling and searing the Hydra's heads of corruption, imbecility,

nepotism and fraud, born from the fatal principle:—‘to the victors belong the spoils’—that we can refer to the shades of a Past, soon to be lost in the splendour of the rising Future. All our sympathies are with the monarchical system of government; but ‘blood is thicker than water,’ and though detail of the evils, through which General Jackson’s system of Civil Service has dragged his country nearly to the verge of ruin, would have rendered our argument more powerful—we cannot sacrifice our consinship on the altar of the Antithesis.

In Japan, the machinery of Government is still strikingly complex. Things are in a transitional state and the situation is abnormal. Fifteenth century civilization, side by side with the intellectual progress of the nineteenth, presents a startling picture. And there is more behind. In the political and social upheaval which accompanied the revolution of 1868, the nation witnessed the destruction of the established order of things, with nothing at hand to supply its place. Here then, there is no beaten track for administrators to work upon. It is not a question of strengthening the foundations of a sufficiently firm structure, or of altering the positions of certain supports, so that the weight of the whole shall rest equally on the sustaining props; but it is a question of building up, bit by bit, a fabric of government which shall meet the requirements of a people who have, in the space of a few short years, leapt over stages of development which it has taken other nations centuries to overpass. Great therefore is the necessity that, in their construction of the edifice of government, the designers should be men of ability; but even more essential is it that those, to whom the execution of the design is entrusted, should be fit and capable for the task. Granted that, for some years, the measures which are introduced must be of a tentative character; let the experiment be conducted at the least possible cost to the country. And to this end, it is requisite that there should be some standard of fitness for civil employ, some approved tests, by means of which the country should get the best men for her money. The most diligent enquiry, however, in this direction, would be fruitless, for the simple reason that none of those qualifications demanded in other countries are considered necessary here. Here, no tests of fitness for office exist, nor is any course of training prescribed for public officials, before entering upon the duties of their posts. Under such circumstances, what wonder if appointments are made capriciously, and vacancies filled up in too many cases by the creatures of a central despotism? Where no special training for particular branches of the administration exist, mistakes must, in the very nature of things, occur; and it is useless to express surprise, if the talents of a clever financier be frittered away in some diplomatic sinecure, or an able administrator be called on to expound the law, of the first principles of which he is ignorant.

And of equal importance with the need for the establishment of tests of fitness for public office, is the necessity for proper organization. The two go hand in hand. First ascertain the fitness of your officers, and then let them have confidence in the system of which they are a part. A Civil Service, founded on no regular system, is a source of weakness to a Government; a properly organized service is a great and powerful ally. Organize a service, create a system for the control of each branch of civil employ, and you at once call into being a feeling of *esprit de corps*. In a regular Covenanted Service, are found the best incentives for the play of individual energies,—such as emulation, mutual confidence, proper pride, and legitimate ambition;—with that perfect confidence in the security of the material private future, which leaves the mind free and unembarrassed for the work of public duty. In the race for official distinction there is animation, there is life. Men feel, as in the race for wealth, that they must do their utmost to secure and keep a place in the front rank, or be left behind

in a rack of contemptible mediocrity. And there is more;—there is a sense of security in the knowledge that, if a man does his duty, the ladder of promotion is there for him to scale. It is only in such a service that a really high tone,—an elevated *morale*—are to be found. And these qualities all improve with time; the dignity of age steps in, to strengthen and perpetuate them. On the other hand, take any employ which is not organized on a regular system, and what do we find? Stagnation of energy and hope; no pride, no emulation; too often, no consciousness of duty. And, blighting even the good intentions of many, an all-pervading, chilling sense of insecurity;—a secret dread that the same caprice which lifted the official into power yesterday, may turn him into the gutter to-morrow: a dread which too often suggests the necessity of making the greatest possible profit out of the precarious situation of to-day.

Thus is it that, in its organization and its stability lies the strength of the English Civil Service. Candidates win their first posts according to their merit: and, thereafter, ‘the best men for the best places’ is the unwritten rule. Confidence in his superiors, generous rivalry with his equals, and sympathy with his subordinates, are the consequences of the system under which he works, and the causes of a development, in fullest and finest form, of the feelings of *esprit de corps* and patriotism. In the conquest of British India, English civil servants took the most prominent part; in its consolidation, they did all; and later history has not failed to place on record their splendid achievements in the suppression of the Mutiny of 1857. It was a civil servant who defended Arcot and won the victory of Plassey; a civil servant who raised the army which rendered possible the capture of Delhi; a civil servant who defended Lucknow. It is such a service as this of which England boasts, that we would see hereafter in Japan: some commencement of training youth for such a career that we hope to see, in the present. That such a case should be possible, as that furnished not long since,—when the judge of an appeal court resigned his office and left the Bench, to become a practising barrister in the court over which he used to preside,—is the only scandal we need to mention to support our assertion of the necessity for radical reform.

Into the question whether, in the examination of candidates for civil employ, competitive or qualifying tests should have the preference, and other details, we will not enter. We will merely remark that, while owning a preference for qualifying tests, the number of idle hands which the wreck of feudalism has left stranded on the country, makes it doubtful whether the interests of the people might not be best served by throwing open to public competition certain branches of the service.

We may be accused of optimism for dreaming that such a reform as we contemplate can ever take place in an Oriental country; these suggestions of ours may be met with the timid wail so frequently heard at one time in the Native Press—“It is yet too soon!” To these objections we reply that such a view of things may be applicable to the past, but not to the present. Japan is entering upon a new career; for her has begun a new political existence. She has shewn an amazing talent for imitating and incorporating into her political organization the fullgrown conceptions of other nations; let her persevere in this course. Let her National Education be established on a wide and thorough basis; let it be recognized by her rulers that for special branches of the public service, a special training is required, so that diplomatists be skilled in diplomacy, law-givers be versed in law, and administrators understand the principles of government; let the Civil Service of the country be systematized and its ranks be recruited from among those whose capabilities have been duly ascertained—and then and thus only will her public servants enjoy the confidence of the country, thus only will the foundations of a

sound constitution be laid, and the nation be brought into harmony with its rulers; and, when all this has been achieved—then, and then only, will it be possible for her European allies, who watch with such interest her struggle towards the perfection of civilization, be able to grant to her the boons they now so reluctantly withhold—political freedom and international equality.

REVIEW.

THERE is a story which we have never been able quite to believe—because we never met so stupid a Scotchman—of a native of the Land o' Cakes being found reading a Dictionary of the English Language, under the impression that it was a historical novel; and who, asked how he liked the book, replied that it was 'vara interestin' reading, but that the chiel author's style was a wee disconnekit.' A review of a Hong List would appear at first sight to be about as interesting reading as the Scotchman's Dictionary, and yet it is astonishing how much there is to interest, especially by suggestion, in turning over such a work as that which has just been placed in our hands.* Take for instance, the London Directory, and read the full page Review of the work which one or other of the London daily papers annually dedicates to it. Some of these essays are as interesting as any novel. New streets have, during the year, been cut through blocks of ancient London which show, on the section, a perfect conglomerate of archaeological, architectural and historical treasure. An old Company's Hall is pulled down, and straightway the reviewer puts before you a graphic sketch of old civic life on some great 'gandy day,' when the conduits ran wine, and old Chepe was draped from end of end in tapestry and cloth of gold, and masques, triumphal arches, dancing flags, the merry music of Bow Bells—aye, and the merrier sound of ladies' laughter and glances brighter than all the gold, gave a life and colour to the street that one can hardly credit it could have worn, as one gazes at the dull, even rows of grimy smoke-blackened brick boxes which we now call houses, and try to 'live' in. Or a bit of tessellated Roman pavement is struck, twenty feet below the surface; or the crypt of some long forgotten church, burnt in the Great Fire; or a treasure trove of arms, coins or chased metal work discovered. And on each such incident recorded in the year's history, and marked by some necessary change in the year's Directory, does your reviewer discourse you, leading you skilfully on, paragraph by paragraph, and storing your mind with the necessary business knowledge of the new streets, their direction and advantages, and cost; while you imagine you are but reading a well-written bit of description of old London. Then the yearly spread of the great City; the expansion of the population within the Bills of Mortality: what opportunities of other sorts are given to the reviewer there! And so we might go on, if our object were to tell our readers how newspapers are filled, instead of—as it is—to recommend to their attention and their writing table, the excellent new edition of the *Gazette's* Hong List. We can do this very truthfully and of good conscience: for this year's issue is very far ahead of anything of the sort which has yet been attempted in Yokohama. It is extremely well printed and read; there appear to be hardly any errors in it; it is conveniently bound, conveniently arranged, well and copiously indexed; and gives to its purchasers a quantity of useful commercial and statistical information, easy of reference, and which it will save time to have at hand. We are glad to see that a considerable bulk of advertisements helps to swell the volume, and trust that the success of this year's edition will be such as to justify its proprietors in persevering in the work of improving and enlarging their Directory year by year.

Running rapidly through its pages, we find, first, some information that will be of great service to the compilers of the, hitherto, very incorrect gazetteers, Calendars, and similar works published in London; viz.: a list of the names and titles of the Reigning Sovereign and his Family, with a Chronological List of his predecessors on the Imperial throne. 660 B.C. the date of Jinmu Tenno's assumption

of the dignity, is a long time to look back to, and during the 2500 odd years since then, it is quite possible that a few errors of name and date may be discoverable by the microscopic eyes of some of the Yedo critics who occasionally publish such long and interesting dissertations on the value of accents, and with such heat and fury fight for the pretensions of their favourite hs or fs. Looking over the list, by the way, and remembering Macaulay's marvellous feat of memory of repeating the list of the Popes, one is more than ever tempted to regret his death, as surely even his memory would have had to own an overtax, if this list of names had ever been given to it to swallow. Some of them, such as Tsuchimikado, and Gotsuchimikado, sound almost like fabrications to our unaccustomed ear, and make us wonder whether, truly, the nation ever had; but the simpler and more homely memories stirred by the Suisei, and Annei, and Gemmei, of the first page of the list retain them in our minds easily enough. Then follows a valuable page indeed:—a "comparative Table showing the export of Silk from Japan to other countries; the price ruling for 'all round,' or No. 2½ Hanks and the exchange current at given periods of each year from 1871 to 1877." No merchant's office can fail to require this, and we should think copies on card-board for reference on a wall would be popular. The *præmia* and titles and addresses of all the Fire Insurances follow this, and then come ninety-five pages of Directory: official, commercial, and social, for Yokohama and Tokio, giving the requisite information respecting the Diplomatic and Consular Bodies, Imperial Government Services, Foreign Services, Navies, Hospitals, Religious Societies, Postal Services, Associations &c., &c., and then the personal lists of firms, and private residents, all as correct as can possibly be expected. We say 'possibly be expected' because residents are occasionally apt to forget that faults in this department are generally traceable to their own carelessness, reticence, or ill-humour. If a man mislays, or neglects to return, the slip with his name and address printed on it with, may be, some trifling error in a number or an initial, or drives away with a curse the unhappy collector who calls on a mail-day to get a proof corrected, or declines to give information about an approaching change in his firm:—such an one does not well to be angry when he finds his noble name of Smythe shorn of its final e, or his firm of Brown, Jones and Robinson incorrectly printed as Brown, Jones & Co. with the junior partner described, as in last year's edition, as 'assistant.' (Robinson, by the way, in such a case, generally takes care that such an error as this does not occur.)

Then follows an Appendix, in which first appear, in succession of the importance of the Ports as Commercial emporia, the Directories for Hiogo and Osaka, Nagasaki, Hakodate and Niigata, and a list of 'those few sheep in the wilderness'—Foreigners resident in the Interior. This closes the Directory proper, and we have here to find fault, for the first time, with the arrangement of the book. The subsidiary Directories above mentioned ought to have been grouped with these for Yokohama and Tokio; and the blot seems to have been detected too late for re-numbering the pages; as at this point is inserted a Table of Contents of the Appendix proper, which is all matter introduced for the first time in this settlement into a Hong List, and which will be found of great use occasionally, for reference.

The Austro-Hungarian Treaty of Commerce with Japan, has been selected "as a compendium of the privileges acquired, and of the rules and conditions to be observed 'by foreigners of all nationalities in Japan' and this, 'with its addendum of Trade Regulations, will be found to contain everything that any one ever refers to a Treaty to find. Following this is the Tariff Convention of Yedo of 1866 and its 'revised' Tariff, revision of which is now so urgently demanded by a section of the native press. We note here an omission which might easily have been supplied. The duties are given only in *boos* and cents of a *boo*, whereas, when this Tariff was originally published by the *Japan Times* in 1866 these figures were all calculated out into an additional Column of dollars and cents. The *Times* and its copy of the Tariff are alike out of print, but a little enquiry would have put the *Gazette* in possession of a copy of the latter. Should the Tariff not be again revised during this year, we recommend the publishers to note this point for their next edition.

Then follow the revised Bonded Warehouses Regula-

* The 'Japan Gazette' *Hong List and Directory*, for 1878. Yokohama, Printed and Published at the Office of the *Japan Gazette*, January 1878.

tions and Tariff of Charges, a number of Notifications, the Japanese Law of Surety and Law of Appeal; and the Time Table of Imperial Government Railways and List of the Mitsui Bishi Mail Co.'s Fleet ends the book.

We suggest to the publishers to give us, next year,—Schedules of the different Mail Steamer lines, Rates of Postage, Comparative Tables of Japanese and Foreign weights and measures, a meteorological table, Light House Directory, and the names and performances of horses in the Imperial stables likely to show, at the coming Spring Meeting; when their work may be considered complete for the present, until silk goes up, and the Eastern Question is settled, and residents in Japan find themselves able to pay more than Three Dollars per copy, which is the present modest *honorarium* set upon their labour by the compilers of this extremely useful little volume.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THERE are more points than one left untouched in our article on Tea: they hardly come legitimately within the scope of a simple review of a season. Adulteration, and the loss of *bouquet* incurred by transporting the leaf before firing, are among them. We shall not omit to express our views on these subjects in due course. It suffices to say, for the moment, that not one pound of Japan Tea, faced as firers here are now compelled to face it, to suit the vicious taste of the American buyer, could ever get through the English custom-house, since the Adulteration Act became law in England; and that, if the native Government would give encouragement to foreign enterprise and capital, to improve Tea, their second best staple product—by allowing us to cure it at the tea-farms, instead of here, at the outports, the value of this export, and their customs revenue thereon, would speedily be doubled: an infinitely better way of increasing the revenue than a revision of the Tariff in a protectionist sense, which will kill the import trade, without benefitting either native producer or native consumer.

WE have heard that an objection has been taken, by a Japanese official of high rank, to the article on 'Silk and Silkworms' Eggs, which appeared in the first number of this journal:—the idea of improving the condition of the silk trade which we therein suggested, viz: that the native silk-men should cease to bring to Yokohama silk-eggs for export. He acknowledged to our informant that the arguments which were adduced in that article had convinced him, but alleged, as an insuperable objection to the practical development of the idea, the opposition with which the Foreign Ministers would meet it and the pressure which would, infallibly be put upon the Mikado's Cabinet, to prevent its fruition. His Excellency is entirely deceived. The Foreign Ministers might, with propriety, object—as to a breach of Treaty—to the Government forbidding the trade in silk worms' eggs; but our article was addressed—not to the Government, but to the silk-growers; and no Foreign Minister could possibly dare to ask the Japanese Government to *compel* their subjects to sell silk seed to foreigners against their will. The measure we recommend is a purely self-protective one, to be adopted by the trade, without governmental interference, for, or against it. The Government would do the silk trade of Japan, and foreign silk-merchants also, a great service, by encouraging the translation and publication of our advice, by means of the native press, throughout the silk districts of Japan, and we can confidently guarantee that they shall have the support of the Press of Great Britain against any opposition, from any Minister, of any nationality, who may oppose or object to their action.

WE have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of a handsome volume, the Calendar of the Imperial College of Engineering (Kobu-dai-Gakko) and of a pamphlet containing the Reports of the Principal, Mr. Henry Dyer and Professors during the period from 1873 to 1877. We shall give them early review.

WE also have to acknowledge the receipt, last week, of the List of Lighthouses, Beacons, &c. which have been established by the admirable Lighthouse Department at

Benten. We purpose taking an early opportunity of referring to the question of Light and Harbour dues; when it will be convenient to have this handy little volume at hand to refer to. It reached us too late to receive this acknowledgment in last Saturday's *Times*.

THE first number of the *Kiushiu Times* reached us just too late for notice in our last issue. We have now received the second, and remark with regret that its editor has fallen into the mistake common to all amateurs, of forgetting the imperative necessity that his second number should be better than his first. We must fall back on the first number to find matter for notice, which, as with the audience of a maiden speech, courtesy requires to be laudatory. It contains a great deal of matter, its commercial and shipping intelligence is very well done—which was of course to be expected, from the Editor's antecedents, and it is most beautifully printed: so that our laudation of it may be taken as quite sincere, instead of merely perfunctory. It contains, especially, one article on "Coal" which we must notice more in detail.

A great deal has lately been written, here, on the subject of coal duties, and the coal trade of Nagasaki, by persons apparently very indistinctly informed—for the articles have thrown no light upon the subject whatever. The Editor of the *Kiushiu Times* ought to be thoroughly acquainted with it, and shows conclusively that he is, by the article to which we have referred. He admits the injustice of levying a duty on the article when carried by sailing vessel, while steamer carried coal is duty free; but very properly says that the injustice falls on the shipper by sailing vessel. The arrangement was made in error, no one at the time thinking that any of this trade would be done by steamer. He recommends a reduction of duty to 7 or 10 cents per ton; or better still, in his opinion, to nothing at all. And the article is wound up by a comparison between the coal trades of England and Japan, arguing in favour of total abolition of duty in the latter country from the experience of the former.

He would complete his work, if he would compile a table; showing us the number of steamers, and their tonnage, their destination, and the amount of their cargoes, in any one year. For the purpose of the Treaty revisers, and for us watchmen of the press, these facts are much wanted. It is perfectly clear that, when steamer-carried coal was made duty free, all parties to the Treaties understood and meant that such coal was to be for steamer's use. The apparent petty illiberality of charging duty on coal shipped per sailing vessel—even on the smallest quantity for ship's use, shows the meaning of the other clause clearly enough. But, of course, it was perfectly legitimate for any steamer to take in coal at Nagasaki, for as long a voyage as she had to make, if she could carry it. She was by no means bound to coal, there, only sufficiently to carry her to the next port, and, in practice, steamers were purposely run bare of coal just on entering Nagasaki, in order to get as much as possible, the coal being so good. We do not in the least agree with the *Kiushiu Times* in the conclusion it arrives at, that Japan coal should be made duty free. Japan has an advantage here of which she ought to make use, a duty on coal would be a 'productive' not 'protective' duty, and a steady income is derivable from this source which should not be overlooked. The error to be avoided is—increasing the duty until foreign coal becomes a more advantageous purchase to the consumer.

If the editor of the *Kiushiu Times* will leave off writing about the War in Europe, and keep 'down in a coal mine' a little longer, we fancy he would have a better chance of seeing the circulation of his paper go 'up like a balloon.'

THE following cutting from *The English Mechanic and World of Science*, a London weekly paper, affords a curious instance of precocity in a more useful direction than precocity is generally shown. But some boys are as fond of playing with numerals as others are of playing at marbles:—

"A NEW LAW OF ROOTS AND SQUARES.—In making some experiments with numerals, I came upon a curious law relating to roots and squares which may not be known. If it should be, I should like to know where I could see it in print.

"Rule.—Subtract the number of the difference from the difference between the square (the root of which you want to find), and the square next before it.

"Squares. 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100, &c.

"Differences of squares. { 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, &c.

"Numbers of difference. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, &c.

"Ex. To find square root of 81. Subtract number of difference = 8 from difference between 81 and 64 = 17 gives = 17 — 8 = 9 square root of 81, and so on. By means of this rule, tables of roots and squares might be constructed with a saving of labour to the calculator. I find also that squares may be found by multiplying any square number by 4. Thus, if the squares above the multiplied by 4, they will be intervening squares.

"Ex. 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, &c. multiply by 4.

"= 16, 36, 64, 100, 144, 196, 256, intervening squares.

"Squares left out—25, 49, 81, 121, 169, 225, &c.

"This I hope to extend.

AUGUSTUS HALLE (age 14)."

The writer can vouch for the *bond fide* character of this extract, as the boy is well known to him.

NOTHING more has been heard about the rumoured assassination of Mori, so that we are glad to believe that we were correct in our impression, last week, of the falsity of the report.

THE *Tsukuba-Kan*, Japanese man-of-war, formerly H.M.S. *Malacca* left on Thursday for Australia, with Japanese officers and crew. She will make a great sensation in the Colonies, where the commissioners who lately visited Australia on the occasion of the Melbourne Exhibition were so well received. At the same time left the *Seiki-Kan* another native man-of-war, on a similar errand to Europe. The *Tsukuba-Kan* is a 3rd rate, of 1,033 tons, and carries 12 guns. Her commander is named Matsumura. The *Seiki-Kan* is a smaller vessel; of the 4th rate, 850 tons, and carrying 5 guns only. She is commanded by Capt. T. Inouye. Both vessel are screw propellers. We are sure that all their foreign comrades here wish them a pleasant voyage round the world, and a safe return home. We note, by the way, in the *Gazette* Hong List, that there are four young Japanese on board Her Majesty's ship. The youngsters on the *Sultan* and *Minotaur*, at all events, have a chance of seeing some active service.

This is the *Japan Times*, so that we seldom intend to favour our readers with much of our valuable opinion respecting European matters, further than as they affect our trade here. The Reuter's telegrams we publish this week are sufficiently alarming and the silk market has certainly been affected. Last Tuesday or Wednesday, better news seems to have come by private message, for quite a number of silk-buyers were hovering about the native town. The Chamber of Commerce telegram in the afternoon, however, seemed to have completely discouraged them, for no business resulted. It is odd that, as noted in our Silk Report, the natives have, from their Consul, or Minister, in London, just as good and early telegraphic information as we get ourselves. If so, it would appear that the Japanese do not believe in the imminence of a general European struggle.

THIS is the time for annual Meetings. On Thursday was held that of the Athletic Association; on Friday that of the German Asiatic Society, and the Rowing Club, and that of the Yokohama United Club is coming on next week, or the week after. We have not space, unfortunately, to report their proceedings, which seem, too, to be quite fully recorded in the local dailies, on whose province a weekly Review has no object in intruding more than is necessary. All seem to be in a flourishing condition, except the unfortunate Dramatics, who are in a chronic state of impecuniosity and discomfort. Why do they not resort to the expedients of home managers in such straits—get up some old stock pieces. They would have two bumper houses, if they would give us *Cox and Box* and *The Critic* again; and for a change, let Mr. Spurgeon double Sir Fretful and Don Whiskerandos, and give one of his colleagues a chance of distinguishing himself in the principal character.

After the perfectly detestable weather of the New Year holiday week, the fine, frosty seasonable days we are now enjoying are delicious. There has been some skating, but we regret to have been unable to see anything of it. We shall have somewhat to suggest on this head, next week.

During the past week, we have received the following

TELEGRAMS.

London, January 12th, 1878.—Despatches report that after severe fighting the Russian troops have captured the whole of the Turkish Army at Schipka.

London, January 12th, 1878.—Despatches report that Nish has capitulated.

Russian Troops have arrived before Yenisagra and Bazardchid? Query Basarjik?

A New Turkish Ministry has been formed and Handi? has been appointed Grand Vizir, and Server? Minister of Foreign Affairs.

All Civilians have evacuated Adrianople.

London, 14th January, 1878.—Telegrams report that the Russian Troops have completely invested Erzeroum.

The whole of the British Mediterranean Squadron has been ordered to *rendezvous* in the Levant.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

LAST week and this were run into one, by the omission of Sunday, which was the hardest working day of the fortnight. (We shall have more to say, anon, respecting this desecration of the Sabbath.) The *Oceanic* left for Hongkong, and the *Suminoe Maru* for Hakodate on Saturday, the 12th; and then, in succession, on the 14th, 15th and 16th departed the *Gaelic* to America, the *Volga* to Hongkong and Europe, and the *Hiroshima Maru*, to the Coast ports and Shanghai. After which the land has had peace. No inward mails have troubled us, save the *Saikio Maru* from Shanghai, Kobe, &c. which arrived on the 17th inst. The *Tanais*, with the French mail of November 30th from London, is reported as having left Hongkong on the 11th inst. at noon, but has not made her appearance up to the moment of our writing these lines. The *Bombay*, with the English mail of the 7th December, left Hongkong on Wednesday the 16th inst. at noon, and may be looked for on Wednesday night, 23rd.

The P. M. S. Co.'s *Alaska* left San Francisco on the 3rd inst. and cannot be fairly expected, at this time of year, before the end of the month, or say 1st or 2nd of February; the O. & O. Co.'s *Belgie* was to leave on the 16th inst. From the South, the Pacific Mail boat, the *City of Peking*, leaves Hongkong to-day, and will be here about Saturday next.

We regret to have to record another death from *asphyxia* by burning charcoal; Mr. Auguste Perret, first officer of the M. M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Volga*, being this time the victim. Having to keep the middle watch, he turned in as usual at 8 p.m., and as it was very cold, had a small brazier or 'hibachi' put in his cabin to warm it. When his watch was called at midnight, he was found dead. M. Perret was a man about 30, justly esteemed and liked by his superiors and comrades, as a good officer and a pleasant associate. A circumstance that makes the accident more peculiarly sad, is that this homeward trip of the ship would have been his last in her, as he would have proceeded to France on board of the connecting vessel from Hong Kong.

There seems to be a sort of caprice about this deleterious method of getting heat. When we first came to Yokohama, there was not a chimney or open fireplace in the whole settlement, and not

many stoves; and nothing was more common than to see an office or a dining room heated by "hibachis" some of which were handsome bronze bowls or vases. A 'hibachi' in a bedroom was certainly considered rather a dangerous sleeping companion, but otherwise, they were used pretty freely, and without accident. The writer sat, for the whole of the winter of '63-'64 in an office certainly not larger than 10 ft. by 8 ft. which was agreeably heated by an enormous bronze brazier, about 18 in. in diameter; and without ever feeling the least inconvenience. The only precaution he ever took was to have a large copper bowl of water standing on a tripod amidst the hot charcoal, and about a foot, or 15 in. from its surface; but this was adopted more on account of the dryness of air created by the consumption of the fuel, than for any other reason. But it was always noticeable that, before firing the charcoal, it was, in those days, well soaked in water, and exposed to the sun: and it is possible that some part of the free carbonic acid was thus absorbed before the fuel was burnt. We doubt if our servants take the trouble to do this now. It would be interesting to know, also, whether charcoal made from different woods varies in its proportion of free carbonic acid gas when burnt: and as we are by no means too proud to set the good example of owning our ignorance, and asking for information, we make this subject the ground for our first "Query."

We don't remember any thoroughly authenticated case, in those days, (say from 1858 to 1865) of charcoal poisoning. (The prevalent fatal diseases were two-sworded men and *delirium tremens*.) One elderly gentleman, agent for a leading American house, was found lying insensible in his office one day, and this was attributed by some to charcoal fumes—but it was doubtful whether it was not, rather, a slight stroke of paralysis. And a young gentleman died in his bath, but this was clearly proved to be from disease of the heart. Of course it behoves us all to take proper care, but we are strongly inclined to believe that charcoal here has got more dangerous of late, because our servants are too lazy to prepare it properly.

Servants, by the way, have an immensely easier time of it than they did, when they only got as many *boos* as they now get *yes*. Who ever dreamed of going out, in the old days, without the attendance of a boy with a "Choching" as (*pacete* sinologues,) we used to call lanterns? And very choice were men in their lanterns, with monograms or crests, names or numbers painted on them. And oh! the mess the Japanese artist generally made of a motto! Now, if a few old fogies keep up their lantern, they, as a rule, carry it themselves, and are laughed at by the wiser youngsters, who splash home through the mud, and occasionally bark their shins over a plank or a door step, and grumble at the absence of gas. One such antiquated relic of an 'old resident' who is in the habit of carrying a lantern thus, was observed going home from his dinner the week before last, in company with a small shrimp of a servant, who was walking along behind his master, carefully keeping his socks and *getas* out of the puddles, and grinning with intense glee at his absent-minded *domasan* lighting him home. It was not till he had got half way to his house, that it seemed to occur to the master's mind that the servant might just as well carry the light for him.

Again, who cares, now, whether he enters his compound through the main, or side, door of his gateway. In the good old days, the side door was for the coolies, the great gate for the master, or his friends: and many were the contests between foreigners and *yakumin* at the gates which barred the end of the Main Street; contests in which foreign patience, good temper, and perseverance always got the better of official insolence. We have frequently seen a foreign resident, who understood the insult that was meant to be inflicted on him, when told to dismount, and lead his horse through the side gate—dismount, indeed, but only to compel the chief of the watch to lay down his pipe, and open the main gate, with his own hands, for the passage of the horse, much to the officer's discomfiture and the amusement of the native crowd. And one occasion is on record of a foreign Minister having the closed gate broken down before him. Toadies of Young Japan will howl at all this, perhaps quote the record of such acts as just and sufficient provocation for the cowardly and treacherous assassinations,—every one of them initiated by a blow at the victim's back, and consummated by hacking at him while lying helpless on the ground—which disgraced alike the 'gentlemen' of Japan—the sword-bearing class—and the feeble government of the day, whose police was powerless to prevent or punish the atrocities. But such men, writing at what seems now an incalculable distance of time from the events (so rapid has been the advance of Japan under a stronger government, willing and able to accept as a conceded fact our presence in the country) and in crass ignorance of all the small surrounding circumstances of the period, with which none but old residents are familiar,—such men cannot but be utterly mistaken. No foreigner exacted more than the respect which was his due, which was paid to his equals in position in native society, and which he especially took care should be paid by his servants, and which he paid himself, to a native guest.

Japanese officials in those days were the only class who gave trouble and their insolence was extreme. In such cases as we have mentioned above, it was perfectly well known, that they trespassed on the presumed ignorance of the stranger of the customs of the land, with the inhospitable and vulgar design of insulting him and getting a laugh at him out of the street rabble; and nothing was more delightful to the rabble than to laugh in the other direction, as described. Nor are such trifles of ceremony altogether the *nugae* which they seem. They have a value of their own. We may save ourselves a minute's time by slipping through a small side door, as if we had come for the soiled linen, or returned from market with the potatoes; but we don't have such active *mombans*, or such cleanly, attentive, or honest servants, as we had in the old days. We are free to confess ourselves *laudatores temporis acti* and believe that we have an inferior class of domestic servants now than we used to have, because the class that used to serve the old generation, cannot treat with respect another set of foreigners who seemingly do not respect themselves.

The 'Times of Taiko' begins to smell of blood. This is the defect of all Japanese romance, but, of course, in tales of this description, the author must give a true reflection of the genius of the people, and the manners of the time. There is a trifling matter, too, of diction, which troubles us dreadfully, in all our sinologues' work of this character. They will write of Japanese 'knights';—forgetting that knighthood (for we do not suppose that they revert to the Roman polity for their knighthood,) was specially an Order created for the defence of Christendom against all Jews, Turks, and Infidels—including, naturally, the Japanese. We confess ourselves unable to suggest a substitute for the word, but it grates upon our ear. It offends us almost as much as the parallel case of bestowing the honours of English knighthood on certain foreign money-dealers a few years ago did the Rev. Doctor Opimian, a divine not so well known as he should be. He vented his ill-humour in a few verses which we will take the liberty to quote:—

'A NEW ORDER OF CHIVALRY.

I.

Sir Moses, Sir Aaron, Sir Jamramajee,
Two stock-jobbing Jews, and a shroffing Parsee,
Have girt on the armour of old Chivalrie,
And, instead of the Red Cross, have hoisted Balls Three.

Now fancy our Sovereign, so gracious and bland,
With the sword of Saint George in her royal right hand,
Instructing this trio of marvellous Knights
In the mystical meaning of Chivalry's rites.

"You have come from the bath, all in milk-white array,
To show you have washed worldly feelings away,
And, pure as your vestments from secular stain,
Renounce sordid passions and seekings for gain.

"This scarf of deep red o'er your vestments I throw,
In token, that down them your life-blood shall flow,
Ere Chivalry's honour, or Christendom's faith,
Shall meet, through your failure, or peril or scath.

"These slippers of silk, of the colour of earth,
Are in sign of remembrance of whence you had birth;
That from earth you have sprung, and to earth you return,
But stand for the faith, life immortal to earn.

"This blow of the sword, on your shoulder-blades true,
Is the mandate of homage, where homage is due,
And the sign, that your swords from the scabbard shall fly,
When "St George and the Right" is the rallying cry.

"This belt of white silk, which no speck has defaced,
Is the sign of a bosom with purity graced,
And binds you to prove, whatsoever betides,
Of damsels distressed the friends, champions, and guides.

"These spurs of pure gold are the symbols which say,
As your steeds obey them, you the Church shall obey,
And speed at her bidding, through country and town,
To strike, with your faulchions, her enemies down.

II.

Now fancy these Knights, when the speech they have heard,
As they stand shod and shoulder-dubbed, belted, and spurred,
With the cross-handled sword duly sheathed on the thigh,
Thus simply and candidly making reply:

"By your Majesty's grace we have risen up Knights,
But we feel little relish for frays and for fights,
There are heroes enough, full of spirit and fire,
Always ready to shoot and be shot at for hire.

"True, with bulls and with bears we have battled our cause;
But the bulls have no horns, and the bears have no paws;
And the mightiest blow which we ever have struck,
Has achieved but the glory of laming a duck.

"With two nations in arms, friends impartial to both,
To raise each a loan we shall be nothing loth;
We will lend them the pay, to fit men for the fray;
But shall keep ourselves carefully out of the way.

"We have small taste for championing maids in distress:
For State we care little: for Church we care less:
To Premium and Bonus our homage we plight:
"Percentage! we cry, and "A fig for the right!"

"Twixt Saint George and the Dragon, we settle it thus:
Which has scrip above par, is the Hero for us:
For a turn in the market, the Dragon's red gorge
Shall have our free welcome to swallow Saint George."

Now God save our Queen, and if aught should occur,
To emperil the crown, or the safety of her,
God send that the leader, who faces the foe,
May have more of King Richard than Moses and Co.

Poor little Rosey and Tosey! We fear we have much to answer for; and, truly, were sorely tempted to tamper with our author's text, and re-write his last page. 'Twas difficult indeed to correct the proofs. Let us hope that Jizo, whom Captain Brinkley tells us of, will have a special care of their little pebble cairns, and that Shotsuka-no-baba may not trouble them at all.

The London *Examiner* has the following paragraph, referring to two gentlemen very well known in Japan, and to a brother known as well in Europe:—

"Paul Lindau, formerly the editor of the *Das Neue Blatt* and the present editor of *Nord und Sud* and *Die Gegenwart*, has nearly completed a new comedy, *Johannistriebe*, which will be shortly produced at Dessau. Paul Lindau, who has rapidly advanced to the first rank of *litterateurs*, is one of three brothers, all highly talented, two of whom are in the Prussian diplomatic service. Before the Franco-German War the attention of Prince Bismarck was directed to a series of articles in the *Cologne Gazette*, which so pleased him that he telegraphed for the author's name. It was Richard Lindau, to whom by the next post came a letter from the Prince offering to open a career for him in the Prussian service. He was in consequence appointed to the Prussian embassy in Paris; and soon afterwards his brother, Rudolf, to the consulship at Marseilles, whence he was for a time transferred to Bayonne to watch the progress of the Carlist movement. The world will probably hear more of the two diplomatists, unless, indeed, more pleasant pursuits than diplomacy distract their impressionable minds."

The *Examiner* is not so correct in its information as usual. Richard, formerly a partner here in Messrs Alt & Co., is the Consul at Marseilles, while it was Rudolph, the gentleman who represented Messrs Pustau & Co. here, and afterwards Messrs Walsh Hall & Co. who attracted Prince Bismarck's attention in the way mentioned. Herr Lindau had, also, been a successful writer in the "*Revue des deux Mondes*" and it was to the appearance in that periodical of some clever papers under the title of "*Un voyage autour du Japon*" that he owed his first appointment in a merchant's house here, the attention of its head having been drawn to them just at the time when he was thinking of commencing business in Japan. Rudolph Lindau accompanied the Prussian Guard through the whole of the war and wrote, subsequently, an interesting account of their services. At the peace, he was appointed to the Embassy in Paris, where he now is; and the last public mention we noticed of him, before this, was in the *World*, where he was said to be 'whispering into the ear of the lovely Princess'—

All which is excessively interesting to poor devils of penny-aliners, as showing what may happen to us. Only one must take care not to be an Englishman. The only attention he is likely to get from his Minister is a threat of deportation.

LATEST REUTER'S TELEGRAM.

As we go to press, we receive the following:—

London, January 17th 1878.—Austria and England refuse to recognize any separate Peace or one which is contrary to the Treaty of Paris of 1858.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter 3. OUTLAWED.

SANDAYU'S wife herself had been equally astonished at Gorokichi's disappearance. In the moment of her parley with Shikibu, the impossibility of concealing him anywhere had presented itself simultaneously with the wish to do so, and since nothing is more embarrassed than dishonest love at the aspect of detection, she had almost hesitated to rejoin her lover, so humiliating did she find the new condition of their intrigue.

The four walls, the alcove, the recess for the rain doors

and a few simple articles of furniture, all these things, embraced in a single glance, rendered a search unnecessary, while at the same time they made the man's sudden invisibility more than marvellous.

Miné, however, having drawn all possible advantage from the result, set little store by the means, and seated by the charcoal brazier on her return from Shikibu's room, disposed herself rather to ponder the probable issue of the discovery her rival had too certainly made. With her elbow resting on the rim of the brazier and her chin supported by her hand, she had remained some moments buried in thought before the chill morning air directed her attention to the smouldering fire. She took the tongs, and was on the point of assembling the embers of charcoal, when she observed that the ashes of the brazier had been raked so as to present an even surface, on which were traced four characters signifying, "under the next mat." Now the brazier was touched on one side by the cushions of the couch, and thus the word "next" became under the circumstances entirely distinct. Inserting therefore the handle of a small mirror between the interstices of two mats, Miné succeeded with very little difficulty in raising the one described, and then saw that the boards it covered were loose, so that by removing them a perfect hiding-place presented itself under the floor of the room. Gorokichi's disappearance was thus no longer a mystery, and although she knew that his evasion was only an exercise of the art her husband taught and in which her lover was reputed so perfect, Miné could not but admire the quickness and address that had been so successfully applied at such a crisis.

Gorokichi meanwhile had made his way very unconcernedly to his own quarters. With men of his temperament, resolution often precedes emergency, and it cost him nothing to see the approach of a conjuncture that would again launch him on the stream of adventure.

Indifference being at once the condition least likely to excite rumour, and for him most easily assumed, he had disposed himself to pass a few hours in sleep, when he was disturbed by the voice of Miné's maid parleying with his servant in the vestibule.

The girl was not, as Gorokichi expected, the bearer of some subtly worded message intelligible to his ears alone, but of a letter, which she said her mistress had found on Sandayu's desk on the preceding evening, and concerning which the knight had apparently forgotten to give directions before he set out. That Sandayu, failing to meet his head pupil, should have left some written communication for him was a very simple supposition, but the statement that the letter had been discovered the night before, showed Gorokichi that it was not exactly what it purported to be. He was not therefore surprised to find that though the address was apparently in Sandayu's hand, the letter itself had been written by his wife, and contained these words:—

"I will provide that after this evening Shikibu shall not impart her suspicions to anyone. Kinhei however is already in her confidence, or will be so to-day. Can you not devise a means of averting any inconvenience in either case?"

"The stream that winds by mead and bower

"Is touched but once by any flower."

Gorokichi read these words over and over again without being able to satisfy himself that he had reached the limit of their import. Miné undertook to be responsible for Shikibu's silence after that night. So much was certain. Supposing then—and this was one of the contingencies the letter embraced—that Kinhei was still unwitting, it only remained for him, Gorokichi, to contrive the old man's absence until the evening. On the other hand, such a measure would be manifestly futile, if Kinhei were already Shikibu's confidant, and yet some step that would meet this condition also was to be taken. Finally the everlasting separation of the water and the flower it touches once in flowing, was no less typical of death the divider, than of time the irrevocable, and the echo of the last idea repeating itself after every surmise, Gorokichi left his quarters, and took the way to the gymnasium without devoting any more time to the analysis of the letter.

His object was to find Kinhei. He had not confessed to himself any evil design, nor even traced the outline of the plan he proposed to pursue. A mechanical avoiding of question or request, the easiest sources of information, as well as an extreme circumspection which he detected in his

method of seeking, were the first indications he had of his own purpose.

Kiuhei was not at the gymnasium nor in the servant's quarters. Neither was he on duty at the gate, for it was easy to see the warden's seat, and almost the whole interior of the lodge, across the thick wooden bars of the window.

This absence of the man he sought began to cause Gorokichi some disquiet. The old retainer might be at that very moment listening to the recital of Shikibu's suspicions, or even following his master with tidings of them. In the latter case, however, he could not be far on his way, for having charge of the purveyance, he would not have risked observation by absenting himself from the morning meal, of which the scullions were even then in the act of removing the apparatus. The result of this reflection was that in a moment Gorokichi found himself at the top of the watch-tower, and commanding an almost uninterrupted view of the road to Kiyoto as far as the exit of the valley.

But in this stretch of more than two miles not a single traveller was visible. Gorokichi had therefore turned to descend, when a sharp sound, like the stroke of a mattock on a stone, directed his gaze towards a row of rice-straw stacks at the back of the stables.

There he saw Kiuhei busily digging, and from time to time stooping to pick up something which he transferred to a section of bamboo suspended from his girdle. Then Gorokichi remembered that the old man generally spent most of his leisure hours fishing, and with a feeling of compassionate reluctance, watched him as he collected bait for his favourite pastime.

But a spring day, soft edged clouds and brisk dashes of rain gave such promise of sport, that the search for bait was presently concluded, and Kiuhei, taking up his fishing rod and basket, trudged briskly off along a little path that wound across the valley.

His destination was a lake in the grounds of an old castle some dozen furlongs distant. Entered through a gate, over the remains of which a huge pine tree stretched its sturdy arms, the manor road, despite much debris of stone work and palisade, preserved for a time faint traces of the many feet that had once trodden it, but soon, rugged with roots and brown with sprays of cedars at its sides, ended abruptly on the verge of a bamboo grove; for its face was hidden by the hardy saplings that had pushed themselves many an ell beyond the shadows of their ancestors. On the other side of this grove, masses of matted weeds and creepers disfigured what had once been a fair and ample tract of well trimmed turf, stretching down to the margin of a little tarn whose deep waters, stirred by broad shouldered carp and lusty gudgeon, had always been a chosen resort of rustic anglers, until by some strange series of accidents, the same month, in four consecutive years, had seen the dead body of a fisherman entangled among the thick tresses of fir and alder that shaded three sides of the lake. After this, an evil fame had turned away the feet of the country folk, so that the place was now seldom visited except by an occasional woodman or gatherer of mast and chestnuts.

Gorokichi, his head muffled in a hood that hid everything but his eyes, and a farmer's rain-coat of hemp and straw thrown over his shoulders, followed Kiuhei to within a bowshot of the tarn, and then removing his disguise, walked down to the old man's side, just as the first hook had been baited and dropped beside the buttress of a ruined summer-house.

"Why, my master," cried Kiuhei with a merry laugh, "what accident has brought you here?"

"No accident, Kiuhei, but the sight of you and your fishing rod. I want to watch you pull out a few of those drowsy carp you carry home so often."

"Ah! Then I hope you will soon be satisfied. But indeed I thought at first that you might have come to hang up an erotic tablet at the shrine of the old temple in the wood, or perhaps to try conclusions with the ghouls of the tarn!"

Gorokichi looked sharply at Kiuhei, as if he detected some hidden meaning in his words.

"And what should I have to do with love tablets or any nonsense of that sort, old man?" he asked.

"Oh! Nothing, my master, surely nothing more than any one of your age and mien might have. The idea only occurred to me as a consequence of my concern for a heart that is, I fear me, sadly disturbed by sad matters."

"Whose heart may that be, Kiuhei?"

"You have no need to ask me that, Sir. The knight's lady is too young and too pretty to be neglected as she is, and if jealousy never recalled love, it has often done a great deal to banish happiness."

"I do not think there is much cause for uneasiness, Kiuhei. Sir Momoji is not the man to trouble himself about jealous complaints."

"Perhaps not, Sir, perhaps not. But you know the proverb, 'who seeks least trouble, trouble mostly seeks.' For my part I see in every quiet day that passes a happy chance which may never repeat itself."

"An irrational state of mind, Kiuhei. Anticipating unhappiness is the worst way to be happy. Besides, your jealous lady is but a woman after all. If, indeed, she had a sympathizer, she might presently also have an avenger. Is that what you look for, Kiuhei?"

Neither this explicit question, nor the questioner's tone of challenge, disturbed the old man's tranquillity. Without raising his eyes from the float of his fishing-line, he answered half musingly:—

"Sir Momoji's wife is too proud to share her sorrows even with a lover, if she had one. But that is of all things least likely. She is beyond the reach of any passion that could blemish her fair fame."

Gorokichi made no reply. He saw plainly that Kiuhei neither knew nor suspected anything, and probably during the few moments of silence that succeeded, he sought to devise some means of escaping from his own intentions.

He was roused from his reverie by the voice of the old man crying,

"Look, my master, we are going to have some sport," and turning, he saw that the float, after a moment's uncertain agitation in its place, suddenly sank below the surface and began to move steadily out towards the middle of the tarn. Immediately Kiuhei rose to his feet, and striking the hook well home, the quiet water was forthwith lashed and furrowed by the death struggles of a monster carp.

If it be true that the shadow of coming fate is sometimes cast on the features of its victim, Kiuhei's face might well have looked sombre as he stooped to remove the hook from the mouth of his capture, for at that very moment, with a motion rapid as thought, Gorokichi drew his sword and divided the old man's body from shoulder to waist. He fell forward without uttering a sound, and Gorokichi wiping his sword on the doublet of the corpse, walked quickly away.

But before he had taken twenty paces some sudden thought seemed to visit him. Retracing his steps he passed round the tarn, and made his way through the wood on the opposite bank.

Near the point where he emerged, he found the junction of two mountain roads, enclosing in their angle a group of wayside gods. Behind these stone figures he concealed himself, disguised again in his hood and raincoat.

Shortly afterwards, the notes of a drinking song came down the hill, and were presently followed by a yeoman, whose tipsy feet with difficulty discerned the narrow pathway. As he staggered past the images of the children's tutelary gods* Gorokichi stretched out his hand, and drawing the yeoman to his side, after a very brief struggle, strangled him.

Throwing the body over his shoulder with hardly a semblance of effort, he walked back to the tarn, and having deposited his burden a short distance from the spot where Kiuhei lay, he drew the yeoman's sword and slashed the head and trunk of the corpse with a number of wounds, such as might have proved fatal in the aggregate, though not immediately disabling. This done, he unsheathed Kiuhei's sword also, and let it fall in the track of the blood that still crept towards the edge of the tarn.

Disposed thus, the bodies, when discovered a few hours later, seemed to tell a story that found credence with all but Miné. She indeed more than guessed the truth, but

* According to the Buddhist creed, the paradise of children (Sai no kawara) is a region in Hades abounding with pebbles, which the little fingers amuse themselves in collecting and piling up. But in the same region dwells a crabbed old crone (Shotsuka no baba), whose delight is to scatter the half formed heaps and otherwise torment the baby shades, until her vexatious malignity is restrained by the goodnatured god Jizo, the guardian of children. Images of Jizo are generally set up by the road side, that young folk passing by, may form little tumuli of stones at the god's feet, or add a pebble to the contents of his wallet (Dzudabukuro), while mothers hang their babies' pinafores round his neck. F.B.

since she had not completely estimated her lover's recklessness, it did not occur to her that this double murder could have been anything but a necessity. Gorokichi had no doubt discovered ample evidence that Kiuhei was cognizant of her disgrace, and if Kiuhei, why not others also?

This consideration, pointing to the possible imperfection of the step she contemplated, would to most women have proved deterrent; with her, on the contrary, it became an incentive.

She sent a message to Shikibu saying that she wished to speak with her about Kiuhei's death; a message perfectly calculated to startle its recipient, who was even then vainly battling with the terrible conviction that in some way or other her own action had brought about the old man's end.

Minè's simulated solicitude was however even more impressive than Shikibu's real anxiety. She proposed a number of questions tending to the supposition that Shikibu had been in the dead man's confidence. She hinted that Kiuhei might have known more than he confessed about the disturbances in the house the night before, and finally she said plainly that she was not satisfied to accept the idea suggested by the position and circumstances of the two bodies.

All this was the more embarrassing, because of its proximity to the truth, and it had the effect of so completely bewildering Shikibu, that she found no room to be astonished at her altered relations with Minè, who seemed to have altogether put off her former hostility, and now entreated Shikibu to be her guest for a few hours, until the horror of Kiuhei's death should in some measure have been dissipated.

So it fell out that at sunset these two women supped together for the first time. It would seem that across all Shikibu's confusion some memory of the past night's occurrence still pierced. She resolutely refused the wine cup offered first to herself as a guest, but in doing so, fell an easier victim to the scheme that was on foot; for when, seeing her hostess drink from the same flask, she knew that suspicion was unjust, her generous nature prevented all subsequent denial, and thus, on an occasion when the most heedful vigilance alone could have helped her, she returned to her room at midnight with a throbbing head and senses desiring nothing but rest.

Chance, which sometimes seems to league itself with crime, willed that many a sound might have escaped observation that night, amid the dash and patter of the spring rain that tumbled in torrents upon shingle and pavement, with such an unceasing tumult that even the deep breathing of an uneasy sleeper hardly sufficed to guide one already within reach.

Sandayu's wife, upon hands and knees, and trailing after her a soft silk girdle half coiled, was creeping towards Shikibu's bed. A night lamp burned behind a low screen, but the rush had been consumed to the very edge of the oil and scarcely glimmered within its paper walls. The woman's first care was to raise the wick, light being essential for the achievement of what she had in hand.

Having done this, she found herself behind Shikibu, but separated from her by the screen. She therefore drew it gently aside, and then saw that the girl's head had slipped from her pillow and was resting on her bent arm.

This position made the execution of Minè's design doubly difficult. In order to place the girdle under Shikibu's neck, it became necessary to pass one end of it between the sleeper's chin and shoulder. To guide the limber silk, Minè therefore attached it to a short stick with which she had come provided, and which was apparently the lower bar of a vest rack.

But though the stick easily effected its passage, the knot, necessarily a clumsy one, refused to follow.

In this dilemma, Minè, her fingers trembling, her throat parched and a din in her ears that deadened the tumult of the rain, remained a moment doubtful whether to withdraw the stick and rearrange the fastening, or apply, at all risks, force sufficient to overcome the obstacle. But while she debated with herself, an almost incredible accident occurred, for the sleeper, raising her head, turned completely over and rested her forehead on the pillow.

The result of this movement was that the girdle found itself directly under her neck, its point of attachment lying two hand-breadths clear on the other side.

After this Sandayu's wife did not hesitate an instant. Carrying back the free end of the bar she passed the girdle

twice round it, so that, at the last, the stick was grasped closely over the back of the girl's neck, while from its ends depended a loop encircling her slender throat.

Then holding the bar horizontally, Minè began to twist it, at first slowly and watchfully, but presently with all the energy and speed her desperate deed dictated.

Under this terrible and always tightening pressure the unhappy girl's convulsive struggles only sufficed to raise her beautiful head once, and that a very little space. She had long ceased to breathe before the grasp that held her body down relaxed.

When Sandayu's wife found herself certainly in the presence of death, she took a sealed letter from her bosom and laid it beside the murdered girl's writing desk. Then extracting from the wardrobe a number of garments and other articles, such as their owner might have selected on the eve of a sudden departure, she made them into a bundle, which, together with the dead body, she carried along the passage, through the kitchen and out into a garden that lay on the south of the house. There, before emerging from the shadow of the eaves, she collected a number of stones, thrust them into the bundle, and tied the whole to the feet of the corpse with infinite precaution of knot and fastening.

But when she essayed to raise the body thus weighted, great as her strength was, she found it insufficient. Again and again she strove with desperate energy to complete her task, now lifting the body, now the bundle, and when at last she saw herself baffled, a frantic terror fell upon her. It seemed to her that the Gods themselves had interfered to stay her crime. She could not hope without much leisure and pain to loosen the knots that held the stones, while now her previous deliberation was replaced by an intolerable impatience.

In her despair she grew reckless. Seizing the bundle of clothes she stumbled blindly forward, dragging the murdered girl by her feet across pools and bushes, till at last she reached the edge of a well, over the brink of which she half lifted, half pushed her ghastly burden, and then, scarcely yet persuaded that the end was attained, hurried back to the house, her ears ringing with the echo of a dull plunge and the plashing of disturbed water.

No search was made for Shikibu before Sir Momoji's return, as it was very naturally supposed that the letter found in her room would account for her sudden disappearance. This letter, addressed to Sir Momoji, was in a woman's hand. It said that the writer might have felt more than respect for Sir Momoji, had he found her heart disengaged, but that such was not the case. Her troth had been plighted before Prince Hanayama's commands consigned her to the knight, and finding it impossible to live any longer separated from the man she loved, she fled, she said, to seek him, praying Sir Momoji not to mar the kindness he had always shown her, by a pursuit which if successful, could only end in her death.

These characters, though irregularly formed, suggested the idea of emotion rather than disguise, but were in nothing similar to Shikibu's writing, of which however the knight had but scanty knowledge. Whether, however, the words contained some import subtly devised to disable Momoji's resentment, or whether a merciful instinct restrained him from seeking the reality too closely, he seems to have accepted the event as irremediable. It was obviously easy to obtain assurance in the main of the letter's truth or falsehood, by reference to Kiyoto, while at the same time nothing was more unlike the practice of the age than to surrender his mistress tamely to another. Yet he astonished his friends by complete inaction. Long hours of dejected reverie and an entire distaste for all former pursuits, are not moods that usually visit a strong man, when he sees himself abandoned by a heart whose love he never possessed.

Spring ripened into summer, and as the voice of the insects grew stronger, a deeper gloom gathered over the old homestead in the valley. The knight had long ceased to visit the gymnasium, and now in truth rarely left his room, so that, one by one, his pupils fell away, and at the last, the school was shut, and only the bats visited the watch-tower.

Gorokichi indeed remained, held by his guilty love, but whether the unison of their wills was weakened, or whether their opportunities were narrowed by the knight's constant presence, the lovers seldom succeeded

in meeting, and often when they did, found themselves separated by an embarrassing memory of the past.

This was surely not the end that Miné had proposed to herself in the early days of their passion. She who had already undertaken so much to prevent the interruption of their intercourse, was not likely to recoil before anything that might ensure its permanency. In people of her disposition, retreat is always more intolerable than the anticipation of any hazard incurred by advance, and it seems certain that she only waited to attempt a second crime, lest its close proximity to the first should teach men to associate the two. But whatever her designs may have been, an accident interrupted their progress.

Midsummer brought with it a long series of parching days. The morning dews had no longer strength to raise the drooping head of the young rice plants, and the hues of the wayside lily began to be hidden by the restless dust. Sir Momoji sat alone in his room. An open book lay before him, but over its pages was spread a letter that bore evidence of much perusal, for the edges of the paper were frayed and the words traversed by a multitude of creases. He looked at the letter, but did not see it, for he was reading its impression on his own heart, and at the same time struggling to decipher a tracery of strange doubts that seemed to underlie the characters.

At this moment an arrival was announced, and in his visitor the knight recognised Hatori Shozo, one of his oldest and most respected friends. Hatori was the senior by many years, but beside his host he looked a young man, for sorrow had suddenly multiplied Sir Momoji's age.

After the exchange of their first greetings, Sandayu had well-nigh lapsed into an embarrassed silence, for, though shunning any selfish exposure of his sufferings, he did not care entirely to hide his heart from a friend so close to it. But the other was evidently prepared for what he found.

"Sir Momoji," he said, "I have come to offer you my heartiest sympathy. I owe you many apologies for not having done so sooner, but I hope presently to explain my omission."

"There is no need Sir Hatori," answered the knight, "Our friendship is, I hope, beyond the reach of such formalities. Besides, what has happened is not worth a second thought."

"I am glad to hear you say so, Sir Momoji, but your friends in the capital are disturbed by rumours that reach them, and you will pardon me if I say, that to my eyes the circumstances of your life here seem somewhat changed."

"Well yes," answered Momoji, "probably the absence of my pupils gives the place an air of gloominess. I have been rather out of health lately, and find the school somewhat irksome."

Hatori pushed the cushion on which he sat close to Momoji, and touching his host's hand, said.

"My old friend, let there be no concealment between us. The sages teach that reserve is the nurse of bitterness, yet would I gladly leave the cure to your own strong heart rather than employ the medicine of advice, were it permitted to forget that a gentleman's honour is dearer to him than love or life."

"Are there any who dare to accuse me of forgetting that?" cried the knight, looking up quickly with a flushed brow.

"If there were such to my knowledge," said Hatori quietly, "you know well I should have answered them fully before coming here. But it is not a question of what men say. Were all the world dumb, conscience would still speak, and you, I believe would hear it plainer than any. But since you have in part anticipated my idea, I tell you without further hesitation, that your inaction has surprised me, and even threatens to overturn my esteem. I ask you then to avert this danger, which no doubt arises from my ignorance of the truth."

It was impossible to be reserved in the presence of so much frankness, and Sir Momoji related all the circumstances of Shikibu's disappearance, surprised at the end to find that he had added the story of Kihei's death, as though the two events were in some way connected. Hatori, having listened silently to the whole history, waited a moment as though he expected more, and then said half disappointedly.

"Yes, that only differs from what I had heard in a few points of detail. Then, Sir Momoji, I have but one question to ask. Do you believe that all these things happened as you have told them?"

Greatly moved apparently by this enquiry, the knight covered his eyes with his hand, and in a low broken voice, said:—

"I have never been able to realize that she was a hypocrite."

"I understand you, Sir Momoji. Of the truth of her feelings towards you none can judge so clearly as yourself. But you will remember that I knew her also, both before and after she entered your house, and because of this knowledge, which tells me she was incapable of deceit, I have devoted three months to search and enquiry. Not, mark you, expecting to find her, but rather to acquire the certainty that her word had never been pledged to another, and that if she left your house at all—"

But here the knight raised himself from his seat, and bent towards the speaker with such a gesture of suspense and agitation, that the other paused in amazement:—

"If she ever left my house at all," repeated Sir Momoji in a hoarse whisper:—

"It was not," continued Hatori, "with her own consent, nor perhaps ——— with her own knowledge."

He scarcely dared to look at Momoji as he uttered these last words, but he could hear that the knight breathed hard, like one who had just escaped some great peril. Neither of the men spoke for some time, but each had apparently followed the other's thoughts, for when Hatori presently held out his hand, Momoji at once placed in it Shikibu's letter.

"Can you tell whether this is her handwriting?" asked Hatori, after he had carefully read the letter.

"No," replied the knight, "for strange to say, I have never seen a letter of hers, but a few characters she has traced in my presence bear little or no resemblance to those on that paper."

"Then what credit can you possibly attach to the document?" demanded Hatori with astonishment.

"Well," answered Momoji, "the hand is unquestionably a woman's, and it is more than improbable that Shikibu would have employed another to transcribe her confession. Besides the writing bears evidence of an agitation such as the girl might well have felt when she penned it."

"It seems to me, Sir Momoji," returned Hatori, that all your ideas are based upon the supposed reality of Shikibu's flight. Now I am about to make a curious proposition. Will you allow some one of the women of your household to copy a part of this letter according to my directions?"

Certainly," replied Momoji, "though I confess I cannot see your object."

At that moment a maid-servant entered carrying a tray with fruit and cake. Hatori took a pen, and suspending it from a nail in the wainscot by a string attached to the end of the handle, directed the girl to write the following words, taking care to keep the string always stretched.

"Watakushi koto Hanayama in dono ni on miyadzukai no uchi ni fukaku moshibawaseshi h'to goza soro tokoro omowadzu mo shujin no ose nite kokoro naradzu mo kano h'to ye michi wo yaburi soro koto."

He then handed this to Momoji together with Shikibu's letter, and to the knight's great astonishment, though the two writings were different, it was easy to see that they had both been penned under similar circumstances. Finally Hatori caused the girl to trace the same words with a free pen, and showed Momoji that her writing was now so changed as to be scarcely recognizable.

"What conclusion then do you draw from all this, Sir Hatori?" asked the knight.

"Before I answer that question, Sir Momoji," replied the other, "I would fain know why you have hitherto taken no action in this matter."

"You will find the reason here," said the knight with some hesitation, pointing to that paragraph of the letter in which the writer indicated that her own death would be the result of pursuit. "I had received a gift out of all proportion to my services, and that it should remain in my possession would not have been equitable. The girl was not sought by her lover, but went, she says, to seek him. She alone therefore was to blame, and had I raised my hand, it must have fallen first on her. No," he continued as though speaking to himself, "my only object in seeking her, would be to assure her happiness."

"In truth," said Hatori with a look of infinite pity, "the writer of this letter knew your chivalrous heart better than even I did until now. But what," he added lowering his voice to a whisper, "what if it should appear that the

object of action might be not to punish, but to avenge her?"

"In that case, Hatori," answered the knight, his voice tremulous with passion, "all the days of my life were too few for the attainment of such an end."

"And is there," asked the visitor speaking slowly and with evident significance, "is there anything in the whole world that could deter you?"

"Nothing," cried the other earnestly, "nothing but the peril of my honour."

"Then," said Hatori, "you have seen the result of my first suggestion, and will therefore, I hope, be willing to accept my next, which is that you should examine all your pupils and servants, one by one, in my presence."

To this proposition Momoji readily assented, and by his friend's advice, wrote letters to those of his pupils who still remained in the neighbourhood, asking them to meet him that night at the principal inn in the village, for Hatori desired that this examination should not take place at the knight's house. With the despatch of these letters the visitor charged himself, and then took his leave, engaging Momoji to be at the inn by sunset.

Left alone, Momoji, though unable even dimly to discern the truth, found that every doubt of Shikibu's fidelity had already fallen from his mind. Taking down her harp, which had stood covered in the alcove ever since the day of their separation, he set up the ivory bridges one by one, and touched the strings mechanically, as though seeking to recall the measure to which his life had once so pleasantly moved.

Presently he passed to the open veranda, and looked out to see how long the day had still to live, but the sun's rays had not yet sunk to the level of the eaves, and Momoji stepped into the garden, crossing the same belt of pebbles from which a part had lately been taken to serve so fearful a purpose.

Before him lay a bed of irises on the verge of blossom, and he remembered how it had once pleased Shikibu to anticipate the colours of their still sealed buds. The plants looked sapless and languid, for their roots drew no nurture from the parched soil, and finding a bucket with its long handle resting against the stem of a plum tree, Momoji lowered it into the well.

He poured the water among the irises, and as it flowed through the intervals of their clusters a piece of half decayed silk rested in its track. This suggested an examination of the bucket as it ascended a second time, and in the joint of the handle he found a number of long black hairs clinging.

He looked wonderingly now at these, now into the well, but could detect nothing in its obscurity, till inverting the long bamboo from which the bucket depended, and thrusting it here and there beneath the surface, he felt that it encountered some soft substance, and saw bubbles ascending slowly through the water.

Then suddenly the fearful truth looked up at him from the depths of the well, and staggering back, he fell unconscious beside the irises.

When he raised his head, he found himself in his room, tended by his wife and servants. His limbs were still half paralyzed and his senses confused, but the sun, which was just touching the horizon, recalled his promise to Hatori, and careless of all remonstrance, he took his way towards the village.

As soon as he was out of sight, Miné hastened into the garden. Something in her husband's demeanour had excited her suspicions, and when she saw the bucket resting on the margin of the well with its handle pointing downwards, and remembered Sir Momoji's significant silence, she knew that the crisis which had so often troubled her dreams was now surely present.

Of all the guises in which fancy had portrayed the approach of discovery, this had been the most dreaded. Too close and certain to permit either device or evasion, nothing remained but flight.

This resolution taken, reserve became unprofitable. Miné sent for Gorokichi, and receiving him without any disguise, confessed the whole circumstances of Shikibu's death, adding also that her intention had been to poison her husband, and thus remove the last obstacle to their union. She then described the events of the afternoon, and the imminence of discovery, and asked Gorokichi to fly with her, before escape became impossible.

Now by Hatori's advice, Gorokichi, alone of all Momoji's pupils, had not been included in the summons of that evening. This he knew, because the others had called at his quarters, one after another, to seek some explanation of the rendezvous. Combining this fact with Miné's revelations he at once divined the position of affairs and confessed the necessity for immediate action. It was therefore arranged that he should meet Miné, an hour later, at a wicket opening on the road to the mountains, while on her side the woman undertook to come provided with some rouleaux of gold extracted from her husband's cabinet.

Gorokichi carried nothing but his swords. Despite his vast intrepidity, he detected some tremor in the tone of his enquiry as, passing the lodge on his way to the wicket, he asked whether Sir Momoji had yet returned. Reassured by a negative reply, he made his way quickly to the place of meeting, and concealed himself behind a yew tree that stood at the side of the road.

Miné's confession had appalled him. Until that moment Shikibu's flight had seemed a fortunate reality, but now, across the trellis of the gate, he could see the well that hid her murdered body, and with the memory of the gentle girl's grace and helplessness, came horror and detestation of the unfeminine ferocity that had compassed her death.

He scarcely recognized himself in the moral helplessness that overtook him. Years of contact with the egotism of the world now, too late, taught him the value of the love that had smothered his broken-hearted father's reproaches. Owing the only true friend he had ever found, not, forsooth, to his own versatile prowess and singular endowments, but to the memory of a simple old farmer, he had perverted that friendship into an everlasting index of ignominy and dishonour; and now, for all his arm of iron and inflexible will, he felt that life had nothing left for him, but the career of a miscreant and an outlaw, so that, in the phrensy of his self-reproach, he gnashed his teeth and clenched his fingers till the nails pierced his flesh. Then his mood was visited by the image of that loyal man whose full benevolence had ripened once into an indestructible love, and over the days of those patient life a never-lifting shadow now brooded. Should he consummate his evil-doing by flying with this woman, whom, in the bitterness of his soul, he loathed as the authoress of his own endless remorse, and the perpetrator of a crime that made him shudder, or should not rather he show his abhorrence of her deed, by a blow that would at least avenge the memory of his benefactor's love? But then his word, his word, pledged to her who was even then preparing to join him, and who given him her heart at his own prayer! Faithless to his father, faithless to his friend, faithless to his mistress, could he ever again draw his ancestor's sword, or look straight in the face of his foe? No, there was no light; nothing anywhere but despair and self-contempt, and seeing himself hopelessly exiled from the aims of honest men and the epitaphs of fair fame, he rested his head against the yew tree, and wept such tears as only a strong man can shed.

Little more than half the appointed time had elapsed when Miné issued from the house. In her right hand she carried a packet of clothes and in her left, a small parcel carefully wrapped in silk. She moved so stealthily and made such a long detour, to avoid the neighbourhood of the well, that Gorokichi did not detect her approach till he heard her touch the latch of the wicket, and then instead of advancing to meet her, he raised his hand quietly and loosened his sword in its sheath. She opened the gate and pronounced Gorokichi's name twice in a low voice, but receiving no reply, advanced half a pace, closing the wicket behind her. As she then stood, she faced the tree under which her lover was concealed, but presently she turned to look in the opposite direction, and immediately Gorokichi's blade fell on her head. The blow was delivered with all his usual force and precision, but the point of the sword encountered the roof of the gate, so that though the woman fell, death was not instantaneous. He did not, however, wait to strike again, but stooping, took the parcel from her left hand, and replacing it by a folded paper, hastened off along the road.

Momoji entered the house, before Miné had passed the wicket. More than one of his pupils had confessed their belief in Gorokichi's intrigue with his master's wife, and Hatori had afterwards awakened a more terrible suspicion in the knight's mind, for he had explained that his own visit was mainly the result of a story told to his household by a

maid formerly in Momoji's service, who declared that she had seen her mistress writing something with a pen suspended from the ceiling of the alcove on the night of Shikibu's disappearance. Momoji therefore hastened home, determined to charge his wife at once with Shikibu's death.

He reached his room, accompanied by Hatori, just in time to hear Miné's cry, as she fell under Gorokichi's sword, and, seizing a spear, he sprang into the garden.

Miné lay outside the gate, scarcely breathing. It was easy to see by her dress and the packet of clothes she still grasped, that flight had been her intention, and from her left hand Hatori drew a paper on which was written "this is Shikibu's murderer."

While they prepared to carry her body in, a number of farmers passed, supporting three wounded men. They said that within a few yards of the knight's house they had encountered a man running with his sword drawn, who, clearing his path by blows, had maimed three of their party and severed the lantern they carried, but not before they had recognised in the fugitive, Ishikawa Goyemon.

The following day Shikibu's body was raised from the well, but after the knight had assured himself that it was indeed her corpse, he caused it to be lowered again into the same resting place, and gave directions that the well should be filled up and the ill-fated girl's tombstone raised over it.

Then, with Hatori, he prepared a document, in which the two men swore to seek out and kill Ishikawa Gorokichi, each promising that if either abandoned the quest, his life should be forfeit to the other. When the paper had been written and signed, Momoji first, and Hatori afterwards, drawing the knives sheathed in the hilts of their dirks, made incisions on the backs of the third fingers of their left hands above the nails, and confirmed the document with their blood.

(To be continued in our next.)

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Q. I. Can any experienced woodman, or analytical chemist favour the community with a disquisition upon charcoal. Is there any method of getting rid of the free carbonic acid gas which rises from it—before burning, or of any portion of the same? Do different woods give of different volumes of vapour, and if so, which is the safest to use in a bath room?

J. T.

Q. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such: I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan.

B. H.

EXTRACTS.

CHILDREN I HAVE MET.

A CHRISTMAS STORY, IN THREE CHAPTERS.

By JAMES PAYN.

CHAPTER III.

When I wrote that I had my doubts about the adoption of Rosey and Tosey as our own children, it must not be understood that I entertained any idea of parting with them unless I should be compelled to do so; I ought rather to have written that I had my fears. It seemed too good to be true that these little darlings should have come to us as unexpectedly, like a Christmas-box, and that we were to keep them for our own for ever.

The advertisement of their arrival had already been sent to the newspapers, and would doubtless elicit some reply, if not from their father, at least from those who had a better claim to their custody than ourselves. As to Gibbins, I was inclined to disbelieve in him as an entity altogether. Dodo had probably stretched her imagination to its utmost limits in inventing him. She was compelled to tell the children that some one would meet them at the end of their aimless journey, and she had called him Gibbins, a name which had at least the merit of being easily

pronounceable. It was from their father that I chiefly feared molestation. I pictured him to myself as a selfish miscreant, who, without any natural affection for his offspring, might nevertheless resent their adoption by other people; or, if he found that we were really fond of them, might make use of his relationship to extort money by threats of demanding their custody. This would be a state of affairs which indeed "would never wash," and yet we should be powerless to avert it.

However, as time went on, and the advertisement remained unanswered, and no one put in their claim for Rosey and Tosey, we began to have an unmitigated enjoyment in the possession of them. Being an idle man, and also because, hitherto, I had been a childless one, I gave myself up to them more than grown men generally do; I deny that I spoilt them—indeed, whoever yet confessed to such a charge? People did indeed say that I indulged them considerably; but, in return, they indulged me in many ways, and especially with ungrudging opportunities of observation of their manners and habits, thoughts and small talk, logic and feelings. These formed the prettiest study conceivable; all Lilliput life was laid before me, with its springs and wires, and I am bound to say I suffered no disenchantment by being admitted behind the scenes. If the actors had been two boys, or two girls, it might have been otherwise, but with these two, there were no jealousies, no jars, no quarrels. They were avoided in this manner; Tosey had everything his own way, Rosey ministered to his pleasure. Her self-abnegation was complete; it was not "ask and have," because she anticipated his wants: her greatest trouble was when she was compelled to refuse him anything upon the ground that it would disagree with him; for all his desires were fixed upon something to eat, and it was generally unwholesome. Not for a moment would I have it imagined that Tosey was a glutton—

"But knowledge to his eyes her ample page,

Rich with the spoils of Time, had not unrolled."

Science, Literature, and Art, were for the present dead to him and what had he to do but to eat? Many a discreet old gentleman, who has retired from active life, makes the same excuse with less reason; and as to selfishness, one does not consider a king to be selfish (and far less do we call him so), because he takes every thing he wants without enquiring into the miserable details of how it is procured: it is enough that he is graciously pleased to accept it from his devoted subjects. Moreover it was by right divine—the genuine majesty of Love—that Prince Tosey ruled us. His nature was affectionate to an extreme degree, and his temper was flawless; some detractors said, indeed, that this last was never tried—that we pronounced it perfect, as one might praise a bridge that has never been crossed; but my wife and I despised such remarks. The dear child had a desire for having his own way which was far superior to caprice: it rose to genius. I happened to be present on one occasion when he said his nightly prayers, as usual at the dictation of his sister; when she got to "Thy will be done," he declined to repeat that sentence, and moved an amendment. "No," lisped he; "my will be done, not thy will: it is Tosey's choose this time." A revelation of human nature to its very depths! How many of us, who are ten times his age, echo his infant thought, though not in words! It took all Rosey's eloquence and theology to convince him that this matter was not one of alternation and equality.

As for her, no such audacious ideas had ever intruded into her sweet thoughts; she was the most humble and reverent of human creatures, and while entertaining the quickest sense of injustice as respected others, never imagined that to be a wrong which interfered with her own wishes. As a teacher of religion and morals, she was, in fact, without peer. But she would doubtless have failed as a certificated schoolmistress—her grammar was original, infinitely superior in my opinion to that of the most well-informed people, but it rejected the rules of syntax. Her sentences—probably from her entire freedom from egotism—began with "me" instead of "I," and her pronunciation was far from distinct. A curious result of this latter peculiarity of his teacher came out in Tosey. When he had grown many months older, and was kneeling at Mum-mum's knees (she was always "Mum-mum" now with him, and I was "Da-da," just as it should be), she detected in his devotions a certain roll in the word "Hallowed." What he did say, was, in fact, Harold—"Harold be thy name." "But, my dear child, what does that mean?" "I don't know," replied Tosey, frankly, "but I thought that made it more sense"—a lesson for fathers (and mothers) much more significant, I venture to think, and worthy of parented attention, than is contained in Wordsworth's poem of the Gilded Vane.

In spite of the early touch of heterodoxy to which I have alluded, Tosey was singularly devotional in his habits; he was by no means a gooly-gooly child, being full of humour and naturalness; but when there was a doubt of matters being arranged wholly to his satisfaction on this earthly ball, he would at once evoke Heaven

to his assistance. He was once found upon his knees on the landing of the stairs, on his way down to dessert, and being subsequently interrogated on the matter, explained it thus: "I was praying," he said, "that there might be apples—and," added he triumphantly, as though he had annihilated a sceptic, "there were apples." As he got on in months, a taste for books—or rather for the pictures he found in them—developed itself; he became acquainted with all the leading events in Biblical history, and applied them to our own time with a facility that I have rarely heard equalled in the pulpit. Upon my wife being taken ill on one occasion, the ailment, however, being, as it happened, not very serious, nothing could exceed Tosey's concern and sympathy; "Supposing I had died" said she to him, when she was getting better.

"Tosey would have been very sorry, would he not?"

"Mum-mum will never die," answered he confidently.

"Nay, but we must all do that, my darling."

"All but Mum-mum: she will be taken up to Heaven in a chariot of fire." And then he proceeded to describe the details of that incident, which was to take place from the back garden, as being the locality, I suppose, most convenient for the start.

The philosophy of Tosey's character, discernible on our first acquaintance, became so marked as often to be embarrassing. He would pass hours in silent speculation, and evolve therein theories of the most startling character, and which struck at the root of everything. Indeed, some of them were so natural, as well as tremendous, that they were utterly unanswerable. It took all I knew, and more, to evade his inquiries. He would lay his tiny finger upon the anomalies of the scheme of Creation with the most ruthless accuracy, though, it must be acknowledged that, like some objectors of larger growth, his propositions for amendment and reform were crude enough. He was cross-examining me, upon one occasion, on the nature of Conscience, which (perhaps from its inquisitive character) he assumed to be of the feminine gender.

"She knows everything, Da-da, does she?"

"Yes, Tosey." I always confined myself, as much as possible, to generalities, for if Tosey once drove you into a corner, it was all over with you.

"And she is everywhere, is she?"

"Well, yes; she is everywhere, Tosey."

"Then she's in this ink-bottle and I've corked her up—so we'll have no more of Miss Conscience."

It was impossible to explain to him that that very desirable consummation is not so easily effected; though I am sure, if Conscience ever troubled Tosey, she must have done it out of revenge for this attempt to limit her sphere of action, and not in the way of duty.

The most touching speech (save one) that I can call to mind from this child's tongue was on the occasion of his nurse, Elizabeth, leaving our service to better herself (as she sanguinely expected) by matrimony. It was arranged beforehand that no actual "Good-bye" should take place, lest it should harrow the child's feelings, and the attendant that was to succeed her had for some time been living in the house, in order to accommodate herself to the children's ways. But when the evening arrived on which his Elizabeth was not to return, an explanation of some sort became unavoidable. It was broken to him that for that night the new hand was to put him to bed; "What!" said Tosey, "that strange woman? Nedder, nedder!"

In vain it was urged that the arrangement should be only temporary. Tosey was quite unappeasable, and I received a request to come upstairs in person to the nursery. There I found him, arrayed in his tiny great-coat, and his little hat, evidently bent on a night-journey. It was about the time in winter he had first come to us, and a thick fog reigned out of doors, yet he was determined to find his Elizabeth. "Da-da," said he, "I must go to my dear Lizzy, only tell me this: shall I turn to the right hand, or shall I turn to the left, when I get out at the door?"

Conceive the determination of that small child, and picture him, in the wild waste of wintry London, looking for his lost friend, whom he only knew by her Christian-name, shortened for love and euphony. I confess the spectacle almost upset me (as for my wife, she was crying worse than he was), and if I could have inveigled Elizabeth from the arms of her bridegroom, I am afraid I should have done it. As it was, Rosey's tender eloquence, combined with a judicious application of "pigs" of oranges, persuaded him to retire to rest; and ten days afterwards, when his Lizzie came to see him, she was half broken-hearted to see how easily he had transferred his affections to her substitute. "I love all peepy" (people), was Tosey's boast, "and all peepy loves me."

And certainly everybody did love him who had the privilege of his intimate acquaintance: his very foibles assumed such a pleasant guise, that they were attractive; and even his childish selfishness had a humour about it which half redeemed the fault. It was necessary to impress upon him that he was always to give

way to ladies, and so he did (for he was obedience itself), but it went against the grain; with Rosey especially, who was for giving way to him in everything, he found it difficult to practise these Chesterfield manners. On one occasion, the two children amused themselves by changing clothes: Rosey became a shy retiring boy of heavenly loveliness; and Tosey, a brilliant girl, not without a dash of that "beaute du diable" which is ascribed to some of the softer sex. They hurried into our room to admire themselves in the pier-glass, and Tosey pushed Rosey aside with this remark: "Ladies first, if you please, dear." He was at that time, so far as we could calculate, about five years old; as clever as John Stuart Mill at the same age, if not so learned, and with fifty times the fun of that philosopher at any period of his unnatural life.

Rosey was not quite so intelligent, though full of practical good sense, guided by an exquisite tenderness. "I do not understand—I love" might have been her motto. In all those questions of theology and philosophy which Tosey tackled as readily as a navy a wheel-barrow, her curiosity was tempered with humility. It was but rarely, and only when we two were quite alone, that she would ask to have a doubt resolved.

"God could put my head on again if it tumbled off, could he not Da-da?"

"Certainly my dear," said I, then added by way of rebuke for her absurdity "though that might not be done probably in the way you imagine."

"Ah, I see. He could do it with blood, I suppose, while man could only do it with glue."

On one occasion when we were about to be driven out of our London house by the painters and cleansers, and there had been, as usual, much domestic debate about our sea-side, Rosey inquired confidentially: where do the people in Heaven go to, Da-da, when that is being white-washed?"

Sometimes the child would administer an unconscious reproof. I heard you say, Da-da, that Mr. Jones was a brute, the other day; how could that be, when he is a man?"

Rosey's conversation and remarks were of course very ridiculous: to me at least I confess, they were infinitely better than amusing. To Rosey and Tosey I was the interpreter of nature, and the high-priest of the mysteries of life, and they came to me to unravel all the tangled skein. The position was embarrassing and full of responsibility, but my occupation of it endeared them to me more than words can tell. To feel that they were dependent upon me for everything, and so confident of the best being done for them that could be done by word and deed, was to strengthen the claim they had upon my love by fifty-fold. They had changed all the ways of home for my wife and me, and given it light and colour. The patter of their little feet above our heads, their childish glee, and chatter, made music where before had been a brooding silence. They made the cheerful morning brighter by their presence; the livelong day more teemed with life because of them; the evening, when we had seen them in their beds and kissed their eyelids, was more full of calm content. To have said we were rewarded for having taken pity upon them in their friendlessness and desertion would have been to say little indeed. They had taken pity upon us, rather; enlivened our solitude and dowered us with undreamt of joys.

After a few months, the fear of their father coming to claim his own faded clean away from our fond hearts, and left them free for those two children's names; and they will be found engraved there when we are dead.

Only at times, as a secret writing is brought out on a sudden by the fire, the terror of such a blow would be evoked for a brief space, to fade away again like the effects of a nightmare.

It was just three years after the children had come to us, that Tosey began to exhibit certain signs of delicacy; there was nothing very wrong with him, nor could the ailment be identified with any particular disease, but the doctor said he "wanted care." Heaven knows, care was taken of him, but he didn't seem to mend. We kept him close indoors that winter weather, but sorely against his will; he was up at the window half the day, looking out upon the falling snow, and the white world that lay all around us. One day some men came by with the usual cry: "We are all froze out," and Tosey was lavish with his pence as usual, "It must be worse to be frozen out," he observed, than to be frozen in, as I am;" and then after a long pause: If the men can't dig because the ground is so hard, how will they dig my grave, Mum-mum, when I come to die?"

His words, I could see, went through my poor wife's heart, and her only answer was to strain him to her bosom, as though death itself were already about to snatch him from her. At the same moment the door was softly opened, and Rosey slipped out of the room. I followed her, but paused at her chamber door, for I could hear her crying as though her little heart would break, and, alas! I had no comfort for her! It was evident that she had

wished not to distress us by the sight of that grief, of which Tosey's simple speech had opened the flood-gates.

The fear of losing him had been, I felt sure, in her inmost thoughts for weeks, as it had also been in ours, though we had not dared to speak of it; but it had been intermittent; henceforth the shadow was upon us from that hour. Not that Tosey grew greatly worse, or that the doctor took a more serious view of his case; but our presentiment of woe was stronger than our faith in sciences the child's strength and spirits failed him—which they did very gradually, though to our loving eyes not imperceptibly—his affections appeared to grow stronger for us all; but they concentrated themselves on his beloved Rosey.

"It almost seems," whispered my wife, "as though he feels that he is about to leave her, and grudges every moment they spend apart."

Perhaps it was so; Heaven only knew; but in my heart was a terror too great for utterance; a fear that those two might not be parted, but that Rosey's gentle spirit might take its flight with his. It seemed to me that the girl could never outlive her brother—that they were flowers upon a single stem. The doctor, to whom I secretly communicated this apprehension, treated it with scorn: the girl was delicate, he said, but there was no organic disease, such as he had begun to suspect by this time in the boy's case. The affections of children, however powerful, were evanescent; and I should one day give Rosey away with my own hands as the bride of some honest young fellow. Heaven knows that I tried hard to believe him.

It was spring-time, and Tosey was still with us, and could even go out of doors in an open carriage; but he had to be lifted in and out—a burden that grew lighter every day. It was piteous to see him failing and fading, when every tree was putting forth its leaf, and every plant its blossom. I never smell the May flowers now, nor see their snowy masses, without recalling Tosey's delights in them upon that day—the last in which he ever saw them. Once, when he passed a field so thick with buttercups that it looked like a veritable Field of the Cloth of Gold, he asked to get out and go among them; and when we reminded him of his weakness, he answered contentedly: "All right!"—and what a soft and tender phrase he made of that "All right!" "It wouldn't be much good, for, you see, I should be afraid to put my foot upon them." Tosey did not know that the poet had written—

"A lover would not tread

A cowslip on the head,

Though he should dance from eve to peep of day."

but spoke from a heart all gentleness and pity. It could be said of him, as it can be said of few children, "He never hurt a fly" and yet what a pang he gave us, more sharp and bitter, and lasting than any sword-thrust, when he whispered that night, as we laid him in his cot: "I don't think I shall ever play about in my little nursery again." He never did; he left us within that week, and he took Rosey with him. It was not to be expected—I never did expect it—that she who had come from Heaven to be his guardian angel upon earth, should remain here when her mission had been accomplished. We had been up all night with him, but towards morning he had fallen asleep, and we had left him with his nurse and Rosey. If he moved, if he sighed, if he breathed a deeper breath than usual, that child would spring noiselessly out of bed, and be at his side in an instant. The nurse was watchful too, after her kind, but it is Love alone that has the fine ear. What gentle shock dissolved soul from body, we know not—perhaps he did but lisp his sister's name; but Rosey heard it. We found them in the early morning locked in one another's arms, both dead. Their Father had come for them at last.

So ended the one romance of our unromantic home, but the memory of it abides with us both, and will ever do so. It was never cleared up in any way. Who Dodo was, or where those darlings came from, we still know not. We only know—and for certain—where they are gone to. We do not regret that our Christmas-box (as Nelly used to call them) was given to us, only to be taken away again so soon; we have the comfort of it even now. Moreover, we dare to think that we shall one day see them again. There will be change in us, but surely not in them. My Rosey's face will have the Light from the Presence upon it, but it will be the same face; for it was always that of an Angel.

NOTICE.

In next week's "Japan Times" will appear another short story by the author of "Children I have met" entitled

"BORN TO GREATNESS."

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c.

Bread	...	.08	to	.10	per lb.
Beef—Europe. Butchers	...	.10	to	.18	"
Mutton	"	.19	to	.30	"
Veal	"	.25	to	...	"
Pork	"	.12	to	.16	"
Sausages	"	.30	to	...	"
Beef—Japse. Butchers	...	.10	to	.16	"
Mutton	"	.16	to	.25	"
Veal	"	.20	to	...	"
Pork	"	.10	to	...	"
Sausages,,	"	.20	to	...	"
Oysters	...	.05	to	.10	per 100
Eggs	...	.10	to	.15	per dozen.
Fowls	...	.07	to	.10	each.
Chickens	...	.15	to	.25	"
Geese	...	.75	to	1.00	"
Wild geese	...	.75	to	1.00	"
Pigeons	...	.08	to	.10	"
Turkeys	...	2.00	to	3.50	"
Hen Turkeys	...	...	to	...	"
Deer	...	.15	to	...	per lb.
Wild—boar	...	.12	to	...	"
Hares	...	.37	to	.50	each.
Pheasants	...	.35	to	.40	"
Quail	...	.08	to	.10	"
Snipe	...	.06	to	.80	"
Woodcock	...	.35	to	.40	"
Wild ducks	...	.37	to	.40	"
Bombay Onions	...	.07	to	.10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	.10	to	...	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	.125	to	1.59	"
English Coal	...	14.50	to	15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	...	8.50	to	10.00	"
Anthracite...	...	15.00	to	17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	10.50	to	11.50	"

THE JAPAN TIMES.

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

Price Twenty-four Dollars Per Annum.

CONTENTS OF No. 3. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. JANUARY 19TH, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

Ten. 1877-1878. The Japanese Civil Service. *REVIEW.* The *Japan Gazette's* Hong List and Directory.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Telegrams.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 3. Outlawed.

CHILDREN I HAVE MET. A Christmas Story, in three chapters. By James Payn. Chap. 3.

The Housekeeper,

(being a list of prices current for provisions, in foreign shops and native markets.)

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 2. JANUARY 12, 1878.

Extra-Territoriality. The Poll Tax. The Finance Minister's Estimates.

Editorial Notes. Telegrams. Notes of the week.

The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 2.

Children I have met. By James Payn. Chap. 2.

Professions and Trades Directory The Housekeeper. Mail Steamers Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements

QUOTATIONS OF ARTICLES OF IMPORT AND EXPORT.

IMPORTS.		Prices.	REMARKS.			
Cotton Yarn—						
No. 16 to 24 per picul	\$28.75 @ 32.75			In good demand; sales for arrival can only be effected at lower rates.		
ditto Reverse "	34.50 " 36.00			In good demand.		
28 to 32 "	32.50 " 35.75			In moderate request.		
38 to 42 "	36.00 " 39.00			Dull and prices nominal.		
(Bombay) No. 20 "	29.75 " 30.25			In good demand.		
" lower counts No. 14, 16 & 18	27.75 " 29.75			In fair inquiry		
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	1.50 " 1.90			Stock nil. In demand.		
" " 8.4... .. "	1.72½ " 2.35			Ordinary makes asked for.		
" " 9 lbs., 45 in. "	2.17½ " 2.55			In moderate request.		
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. "	1.12½ " 1.22½			Nominal. } Quiet.		
" " 7.0 lbs. "	1.45 " 1.65			do. }		
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. "	2.47½ " 2.72½			Quiet.		
White " "	nominal					
Indigo " "	1.60 @ 1.65			Attracting more attention.		
Turkey red Cambrics 2.0 to 2½ lbs. "	1.70 " 1.95			In good demand.		
" " 3.0 lbs. "	2.10 " 2.20			In moderate demand.		
Black Velvets "	7.50 " 8.50			In fair request.		
Taffachelass (single warp) noml. "	1.65 " 1.75			Nominal. Nothing doing.		
" (double warp) "	1.90 " 2.00			do. " "		
Chintzes "	1.65 " 2.25			In fair request.		
Victoria Lawns "	0.80 " 0.87½			Attracting more attention.		
Cotton Italians (col'd) per yard	0.13 " 0.15			Fairly saleable.		
" (blk.) "	0.124 " 0.13½			" "		
Woollens and Worsteds—						
Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards per piece	5.25 " 7.25			In small demand.		
Mousselines de Laine 24 to 30 yds. by 31 in. Plain 24 to 30 yds. 31 in. per yard	0.17½ " 0.18					
Striped 24 to 30 yds. 31 in. "	0.20 " 0.20½			Saleable and inquired for.		
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	4.50 " 4.75			Inquired for.		
Cloth (woollen) per yard	1.20 " 1.80			Black saleable.		
" Union (54 in.) "	0.65 " 1.00			Small inquiry.		
Blankets 6 lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lbs. 7 " to 8 " "	0.40 " 0.41½ 0.38 " 0.39			Little doing. "		
Metals, &c.—						
Iron, Nail Rod—large per picul	2.60 " 2.85					
" " small "	3.00 " 3.25					
" Bars, flat and round "	2.60 " 3.30					
" Pig "	1.60 " 1.80					
Lead "	7.20 " 7.45					
Tin Plates "	6.25 " 6.50					
Window Glass per box	2.99 " 3.10					
Kerosine Oil per case	4.20 " 4.50					
Quicksilver "	63.90 nominal.					
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 @					
" Welsh "	11.50 " 12.00					
" Australian "	8.50 "					
China and Straits Produce—						
Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.00 " 16.75					
Formosa Sugar, Takao "	4.30 " 4.50					
" " Taiwan "	4.20 " 4.35					
" " White "	nominal					
Saigon Rice "	"					
				No sales reported.		
				No stock in first hands.		
				Market very quiet and prices nominal.		
				Nominal.		
				No sales reported.		
				No stock in first hands.		
				Market firm.		
				do.		
EXPORTS.		Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—						
Hanks No. 1 and 2 per pcl.	\$570 to 610 per pcl.	20s 0d to 21s 6d	56,25 fr. to 60,25 fr.			
" No. 2 "	550 to 565 "	19s 6d to 20s 1d	54,50 fr. to 55,50 fr.			
" No. 2½ (good medium) "	530 to 540 "	18s 10d to 19s 2d	52,75 fr. to 53,75 fr.			
" No. 3 (medium) "	500 to 520 "	17s 10d to 18s 7d	50,00 fr. to 51,80 fr.			
" Inferior "	460 to 480 "	16s 6d to 17s 2d	46,25 fr. to 48,00 fr.			
Oshio No. 1 and 2 "	510 to 525 "	18s 2d to 18s 9d	50,80 fr. to 52,25 fr.			
" No. 1, 2 and 3 "	490 to 500 "	17s 6d to 17s 10d	49,00 fr. to 50,00 fr.			
Hamaski No. 1, 2 and 3 "	470 to 490 "	16s 10d to 17s 6d	47,00 fr. to 49,00 fr.			
Tea:—						
Common per pcl.	11.00 to 13.00 "					
Good Common "	14.00 to 15.00 "					
Medium "	16.00 to 18.00 "					
Good Medium "	19.00 to 21.00 "					
Fine "	22.00 to 26.00 "					
Finest "	27.00 to 31.00 "					
Choice "	36.00 to 41.00 "					
Sundries:—						
Tobacco, Nambu per pcl.	12.00 "					
" Various "	7.00 to 9.50 "					
Vegetable Wax "	13.50 "					
Coal, Takashima "	9.00 to 10.50 "					
" Karatz "	7.00 to 9.00 "					
" Common "	6.00 to 7.00 "					
Rice "	2.20 to 2.40 "					
Sulphur (common) "	2.80 to 2.60 "					

Original from

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

JANUARY, 19TH, 1878.

SILK.—During the first half of this month, the New Year's holidays, the scarcity of good parcels, and especially the disquieting news from home, kept the market very quiet, and scarcely any business was done. The American mail of the 14th took away only 54 bales, and the French mail of the 15th, only 275. We have precisely a similar report to make this week; if possible, the market is still quieter. Continental houses have made a few insignificant purchases, and these firms, indeed, are the only ones which show any disposition to operate: the English houses keeping entirely out of the market: a state of things easily accounted for by European politics. Yet, in spite of this stagnation, and of the presence of what is—for this time of year—quite a considerable accumulation of Stocks, (fully 3,000 Japanese bales) holders show hardly any disposition to give way in their pretensions, and prices to-night are barely maintained at our quotations.

TEA.—Operations have been rather restricted during the closing week, only one settlement of any consequence being reported.

Total amount which has changed hands during the period is about 900 piculs and in consequence of stocks being exhausted prices are for the moment \$1. per picul higher than those ruling last week. Arrivals are now almost nominal.

The *Messenger* is on the berth for New York but only progressing slowly in completing her cargo.

SUNDRIES.—Arrivals of Nambu new leaf have taken place to a small extent, but the price asked is fully high.

In vegetable wax there is nothing doing for Export—a fair demand is apparent for all qualities.

In Rice, transactions amount to some 35,000 piculs for the month, Chinese buyers having run the price up to quotations, and the market closes strong.

Arrivals of Sulphur have not been of a quality sufficiently good to lead to much business; we notice the despatch of a vessel to San Francisco from Hakodadi with a full cargo.

EXCHANGE.—In spite of the large business reported in Imports this week, there has not been the slightest demand for Bank paper, though rates have been gradually falling to our quotations of to-day. The sales of goods reported must have been on credit, or to arrive, or the goods have been drawn against at home. With an almost complete cessation of business in the Silk and Tea Markets, there has of course been no mercantile paper on offer and the quotations we give must, therefore, be considered nominal.

We quote:—London, 6 months Bank 3s. 11½d Private 3s. 11½d. Hongkong Demand Bank ¼ per cent disc. nominal 10 days sight Private 1 per cent disc. Shanghai Demand Bank 7½ 10 days sight Private 7½. BULLION Gold yen 387½ Silver yen 401.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.
Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay. Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.
Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA
LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

Chairman—H. HOPPIUS, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

E. R. Belilios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, A. McIver, Esq., Wilhelm Reinert, Esq., Ed. Tobin, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpotts, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "
" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,

Acting Manager.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsui Bishi S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.
(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
* Feb. 5	" 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 3	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Alaska P. M. S.S.* due February 3.

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *City of Peking P. M. S.S.* sailing Jan. 29.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 18
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Mar. 5	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 27	Feb. 3	" 19	Jan. 13	" 23	Mar. 2
Feb. 10	" 17	Apr. 2	" 27	Mar. 9	" 16
" 24	Mar. 3	" 16	Feb. 10	" 23	" 30
Mar. 10	" 17	" 26	" 24	Apr. 6	Apr. 13
" 24	" 31	May 10	Mar. 10	" 20	" 27
Apr. 7	Apr. 14	" 24	" 24	May 4	May 11
" 21	" 28	June 7	Apr. 7	" 18	" 25
May 5	May 12	" 21	" 15	June 1	June 8
" 19	" 26	July 5	" 29	" 15	" 22
June 2	June 9	" 19	May 13	" 29	July 6
" 16	" 23	Aug. 2	" 27	July 13	" 20
" 30	July 7	" 16	June 10	" 27	Aug. 3
July 14	" 21	" 30	" 24	Aug. 10	" 17
" 28	Aug. 4	Sept. 13	July 8	" 24	" 31
Aug. 11	" 18	" 27	" 22	Sept. 7	Sept. 14
" 25	Sept. 1	Oct. 11	Aug. 5	" 21	" 28
Sept. 8	" 15	" 29	" 19	Oct. 5	Oct. 13
" 22	" 29	Nov. 12	Sept. 2	" 19	" 26
Oct. 6	Oct. 13	" 26	" 16	Nov. 2	Nov. 9
" 20	" 27	Dec. 10	Oct. 6	" 16	" 23
Nov. 3	Nov. 10	" 24	" 20	" 30	Dec. 7
" 17	" 24	'79 Jan. 7	Nov. 3	Dec. 14	" 21
Dec. 1	Dec. 8	" 21	" 17	" 28	'79 Jan. 4
" 15	" 22	Feb. 4	Dec. 1	'79 Jan. 11	" 18
" 29	'79 Jan. 5	" 18	" 15	" 25	Feb. 1

The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsui Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

DOWN TRAINS.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio)	7.0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12.0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5.0	6.15	7.30	10.5	yen	sen	sen
34	Shinagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	..	..	..
6	Omori	7.19	8.34	9.49	11.4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4.4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	..	..	..
104	Kawasaki	7.34	8.49	10.4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3.4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8.4	10.39	..	..	..
124	Tsurumi	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	..	..	..
164	Kanagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11.0	..	..	..
18	Yokohama	8.0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1.0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6.0	7.15	8.30	11.5	1.00	..	..

UP TRAINS.

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.		yen	sen	yen	sen	yen	sen.
—	Yokohama	7.1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12.4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5.4	6.19	7.34	10.9	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Kanagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	.....	...	15	...	10	...	5
54	Tsurumi	7.23	8.37	9.52	11.7	12.23	1.37	2.52	4.7	5.23	6.37	7.52	10.27	.....	...	30	...	20	...	10
74	Kawasaki	7.32	8.47	10.2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3.2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8.2	10.37	.....	...	45	...	30	...	15
124	Omori	7.46	9.1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2.1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7.1	8.16	10.51	.....	...	60	...	40	...	20
164	Shinagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11.0	.....	...	75	...	50	...	25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio)	8.4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1.4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6.4	7.19	8.34	11.9	.....	...	100	...	60	...	30

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Jan 12	Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1100	Kobe		General	M. B. Co.
" 12	Malabar	Gould	Bri. barq.	1260	Hongkong		General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 14	Shario Maru	Hogg	Jap. str.	800	Yokkaichi		General	M. B. Co.
" 15	Akitsuhashima Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	1751	Hakodate		General	M. B. Co.
" 16	State of Alabama	Richie	Bri. str.	1250	London via S'pore H'kong Shai & Nagasaki		General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 17	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2143	Shai and ports		Mails & General	M. B. Co.
" 17	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1346	Kobe		General	M. B. Co.
" 17	Horai Maru	Frank	Jap. str.	600	Yokkaichi		General	M. B. Co.
" 18	Auriga	Messer	Brit. str.	650	Cardiff		General	M. M. Co.
" 18	Suminoura Maru	Spiggleshal	Jap. barq.	925	Sendai		Rice	M. B. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *State of Alabama* from Shanghai:—Dr. Ayres.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. E. H. M. Gower, Mr. W. C. van Oordt, General Fukuhara, Messrs. Kawachi, A. B. Glover, E. H. Gill, Kinashi, J. Tomi, and 14 Japanese in cabin; and 1 European, 6 Chinese, and 130 Japanese in the steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S. S. "Galley of Lorne," Nov. 21.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Bertha Marion," July 30; "Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Sumner R. Mead," Oct. 26.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Aureola," Sept. 19.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Hudson," June 8; "Hattie N. Bangs," July 3; "Midnight," July 27; "Ladoga," Sep. 20.

FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 28; "August," Oct. 16.

FROM PHILADELPHIA:—"S. K. Bears," June 1.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—S.S. "Glenorchy," S.S. "Lorne," S.S. "Caldera," S.S. "Cairnsmuir," "Sir Harry Parkes," "Coulakyle."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. Jan. 26th; Hongkong M. M. str. Jan. 20th; America P. M. str. Jan. 30th; Shanghai Kobe & Nagasaki M. B. str. Jan. 26th.

CARGO:—Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$76,950.00; Yen 3,500.00.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Jan. 12	Suminoya Maru	Nys	Jap. str.	852	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 12	Kworio Maru	Frank	Jap. str.	697	Yokkaichi		General	M. B. Co.
" 13	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,240	Kobe		General	M. B. Co.
" 13	Minerva	Peacock	Bri. str.	1,025	Kobe		General	Findlay, R. & Co.
" 14	Gaelic	Kidley	Brit. str.	2,756	San Francisco		Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 15	Lord of the Isles	Watt	Bri. barq.	317	Hongkong		Rice	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 15	Volga	Rolland	Frch. str.	1,502	Hongkong		Mails & general	M. M. Co.
" 15	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	1,870	Kobe		Mails & general	M. B. Co.
" 16	Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Jap. str.	896	Shanghai & ports		Mails & general	M. B. Co.
" 17	La Clocheterie	Rienner	Frch. corv'tte.	1990	Nagasaki			
" 18	Meiji Maru	Peters	Jap. str.	1990	Saratoga Spit			M. B. Co.
" 18	Shario Maru	Hogg	Jap. str.	800	Yokkaichi		General	M. B. Co.
" 18	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1346	Shinagawa		General	M. B. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* for San Francisco:—Rev. and Mrs. S. Dodd and 6 children, Messrs. A. Churchill, E. S. Smith and S. S. Gilbert in cabin; 1 European and 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per Frch. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—Mrs. Rothmund, Messrs. Ziegler, Fowle, Marie Adolphe, Havard, Madge, Flecker, Mas-seda, Mitui Yonoske, Date Thuishite, Von Knoblock, P. Join and J. Perrin.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima Maru* for Shanghai and port:—Miss Dare, Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki, Messrs. Ishikawa, Hirose, Takahima, Nakamura, Bogel, Hagart, Winckler, Bonger, Bayfield, Oyahara, Wolff, Ching Loo, Kishida, Taketa, Turner, Fukushima, Kindaibo, Kusonoki, Nagasawa, Murata, Kirby and Kowaji.

LOADING:—*Messenger*, for New York, quick despatch.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Newman Hall, for Callao, quick despatch.—Findlay, Richardson & Co.

Saikio Maru for Shanghai and Ports, 23rd January.—M. B. Co.

Sunda for Hongkong and Europe, 21st January.—P. & O. Co.

Akitsuhashima Maru for Hakodate, 21st January.—M. B. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. January 22nd; for Hongkong M. M. str. January 29th; for America P. M. str. January 29th; for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. January 23rd; for Hakodate, M. B. str. Jan. 21st.

CORGOES:—Per Frch. str. *Volga* Jan. 15th, for Hongkong:—For France, 321 Bales Silk; for England, 44 Bales. Waste 71 Bales Silk. Treasure for London, \$30,000.00; for Hongkong, \$6,250.00.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, Yen 5,000.00; \$54,400.00.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia:

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,

PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.

MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,

General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " " " " " " " " "	6 " " " " " " " "	1	" "
" " " " " " " " " "	3 " " " " " " " "	½	" "
" " " " " " " " " "	1 " " " " " " " "	¼	" "
" " " " " " " " " "	10 days " " " " " "	3-16	" "

Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,

First Class, per annum..... 2½ | Per Cent. |

Second " " " " " " " " 3 | " " |

Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,

First Class, per annum..... 1½ | Per Cent. |

Second " " " " " " " " 2 | " " |

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,

Agents for Yokohama and Hioho.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.
BATAVIA, JAVA.

THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawing every month
June and December excepted.

1 prize of	\$ 16,000
1 " " "	4,000
5 prizes " "	1,000 each.
8 " " "	500
20 " " "	100
450 " " "	30
2 approximations of	\$250
Ticket	\$6.00

Extraordinary drawings two
drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of	\$ 60,000
1 " " "	25,000
5 prizes " "	5,000 each.
15 " " "	1,000
20 " " "	500
400 " " "	100
9 approximations of	\$500
2 " " "	250
Ticket	\$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very low tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

GRAND HOTEL, NO. 20, BUND, YOKOHAMA.
AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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General Drapery, Hosiery, Haberdashery, Tailoring, Outfitting,

and

GENERAL FURNISHING ESTABLISHMENT.

59, MAIN STREET, CORNER HOUSE, MAIN STREET, 59

YOKOHAMA MEDICAL HALL AND DISPENSARY.
E. C. KIRBY & CO.

DISPENSING CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

Physicians' Prescriptions and Family Recipes Accurately Prepared. All Drugs and Chemicals Guaranteed to be of the Best Quality.

Importers of Mineral Waters, Toilet Requisites, English, American and French Patent Medicines and Proprietary Articles.

61, MAIN STREET, YOKOHAMA. MAIN STREET, 61.

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 4.]

January 26, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

PLUTONOMY IN JAPAN.

MOST recent writers on Political Economy have had to acknowledge, and in some cases have tried to account for, the strong prejudice against their science which prevails in the minds of no inconsiderable section of the educated public. Even so distinguished an author as Mr. Froude, in his latest published work, is found writing of this 'so-called science' as 'the most bare-faced attempt that has ever been made on this earth, to regulate human society without God, or recognition of the moral law.' This prejudice has, by the writers in question, been correctly attributed, in the first instance, to an utter misapprehension of the nature and extent of their aims, and they have taken pains to combat it accordingly. They have made it a practice to preface their expositions of economic doctrines, with a deprecatory definition of the narrow sphere which circumscribes the scope of their science. They have repeatedly pointed out the error of supposing an investigation into the nature and laws of wealth, to be co-extensive with a dissertation on the whole art of government; and they have frequently and fully admitted the propriety of subordinating economical to other, and especially to moral considerations. But these apologetic labours seem to have been in great part wasted. In spite of expostulation and protest, hostile prejudice shows but few symptoms of abatement, and the misunderstanding which underlies it seems somehow to be endowed with an indestructible persistency. The slowness of the spread of economic truth is one of the standing puzzles of the age. To minds familiar with the first principles of the science, the fact seems too strange to admit of being accounted for by any of the commonplaces respecting popular indifference to the light of knowledge, or the imbecility of the intellect of the average man. The true cause of a phenomenon so unexpected and so deplorable must be sought for in lower depths. In truth it has been so sought, and in an unexpected quarter has been found. Of late the conviction has been brought home more and more closely to Politico-Economists that, of all the obstacles which impede the reception into the public mind of the truths their science demonstrates, the most subtle and the most potent has been the name by which it has been called.

And, indeed, in the long list of names with which the various departments of systematized knowledge have been labelled in ancient or modern days, it would be difficult to find one more infelicitously chosen than that of Political Economy,—to denote the Science of Wealth. It owes its currency to the accident of the title of the work in which the leading truths of that science were first luminously demonstrated; but it is far from being an accurate indication of its subject matter. A wealthy nation is merely one in which the aggregate of the individuals composing it are wealthy; and strictly speaking—Political Economy has but little to do with politics. The name covers a much wider field than that actually occupied by the

science, and the discrepancy has been, and continues to be a prolific source of misunderstanding. A new name is urgently needed for this, the best developed member of the group of Moral Sciences, and Plutonomy,—the Science of the Laws of Wealth, is by far the best that has been yet suggested. Its speedy victory over the older compound designation may be confidently predicted. At all events, 'Political Economy,' being at once a pretentious and a misleading title for a branch of abstract knowledge which bears but slightly on political practice, stands virtually condemned; and in no long time, its teachers will be saved the trouble of elaborately explaining to the multitude that it has nothing whatever to do with what they know as "Economy" and but little with what they understand as "Politics;" in other words, that the limit of their science and the character of the theorems discussed in it are altogether different from what its designation ostensibly declares them to be.

If such be the consequences produced by the misuse of words amongst peoples of the West, where the opportunities and means of correction are abundant, how largely is the mischief multiplied, when the very germ of the error is planted afresh in the soil of another language, in the minds of a people whose modes of thought are in a special manner adapted to receive and propagate it. For generations, indeed for centuries, the Chinese classics have moulded the intellect and shaped the polity of the Japanese race. The spirit that pervades those ancient writings and the fundamental ideas that underlie them are of the sort distinctively known as Oriental. They treat largely of Government and its functions; of the State, and the principles upon which it should be regulated. But their sole ideal of government is the rule of beneficent despots. In their scheme of political philosophy, the people have neither part nor lot in the work of administration. Everything is to be done by the sovereign for his subjects; nothing to be undertaken by the people for themselves. And neither in the literature nor the history of Japan itself, is there anything to counteract, while there is much to intensify, this propensity to ignore the importance of spontaneous effort for their own advancement on the part of the governed masses. The central authority is looked upon as the only possible source of initiative in every department of political and social activity. To minds trained in this school of thought, the set of ideas suggested by the term 'Political Economy' may be easily imagined. Interpreting the expression in the most obvious and usual sense of its separate terms, they take it to be synonymous with State Management, and they naturally enough conclude that its subject-matter is virtually an exposition of the principles which should guide governments in their efforts to regulate production and trade. Hence all sorts of schemes for increasing the national prosperity are pressed upon the government, and in many cases find only too ready an acquiescence. Either, production is directly undertaken by government establishments, or loans and

subsidies are dealt out to individuals or companies. And if the same kind of wasteful and injurious intermeddling with the course of exchange, as with production, is not attempted, it is not because the will to do so is wanting. How completely are such ideas and practices at variance with the true spirit and teachings of the Science of Wealth! As a historical fact, 'Political Economy' grew out of the conviction, in the minds of thoughtful men, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, of the impolicy of the numerous interferences and restrictions imposed by governments on industry and trade, and of the policy of allowing private individuals, whose personal interests were at stake, to judge for themselves for what occupations they were best fitted; how they can best carry on those occupations; what are the best markets to buy and sell in; and what they will take in exchange for their own produce. And the most important of the practical conclusions arrived at, by those powerful thinkers, as the result of their observation and analysis of the phenomena of trade, is the doctrine of "laissez-faire," or non-interference on the part of the State with private individuals in the pursuit of their own interests. Can it be doubted that in Japan, as in Europe and everywhere else, private individuals in their own small sphere have much better means of finding out the shortest and best road to wealth, and much stronger inducements to discover and travel by it, than any government can find for them? In respect to the development of the resources of the country, the true function of the State is not that of attempting to regulate the industry and trade of its subjects, but to remove all the restrictions and obstacles that hamper the free play of individual enterprise; obstacles which have been for the most part imposed in the interests of some section or other of the subjects themselves, to the detriment of the greatest number. The demonstration of the truth of this position rests upon the elemental facts of human nature and society; and has been verified by experience in every quarter of the world.

Unfortunately, however, the very opposite of this conviction, has obtained currency for the present, in the minds of politicians and journalists in this country. The patriarchal theory of government, and the protectionist theory of trade are, for the nonce, in the ascendant. Considering how short a time has elapsed since the nation was awakened out of the deep slumber of isolation and feudalism, perhaps the case could hardly have been otherwise. But it does not follow, because Plutonomy is not a body of practical rules of statesmanship, that statesmen can therefore afford to be ignorant of its teachings. On some subjects, the knowledge of what to avoid doing, is scarcely less important than the knowledge of what to do; and a serious obligation rests upon the rulers of this empire to make themselves acquainted with the results of a century of investigation by the ablest minds of Europe into the causes of the Wealth of Nations. We have too high an estimate of the capacity of the national intellect to entertain any doubt as to the result of a conscientious effort in that direction. But as yet no standard treatise on the subject has met with a competent translator.

THE TRANS-PACIFIC CABLE COMPANY.

WILL Puck's 'girdle about the earth' ever be a realized fact, or remain, during our time at least, only a poet's dream? So much has this generation seen of wonders; of the powers of Nature subjected to Man's will; of mechanical forces trained, till engines seem almost endowed with intelligence; that the word 'impossible' has been erased from the vocabulary of the engineer, and a new proverb has been added to the store of wise saws:—"nothing is certain to happen except the unforeseen." But until some radical change is made in the manufacture of submarine cables, or in the process of laying them, we

cannot believe that the project of connecting America with Japan, by a direct line under the Pacific, can ever be brought to fruition, and we cannot advise capitalists to risk their money in such an adventure.

Some ten or twelve years ago, a proposal was made which was ingenious, theoretically correct, and responsive to all the requirements of a perfect telegraphic system. This was to run a circle of wire round the earth, as near as might be to the Arctic Circle, so as to save, as far as possible, submarine deposition of cable, and also to secure the smallest possible expenditure in length of the line. Up to stations at convenient points on this circle, messages were to be sent from the countries nearest to them, carried round the circular wire, and then despatched to their destination from other convenient points of departure. Unfortunately, it was found impossible to work this plan; European and American operators not being able to support life continuously, under the temperature at the Arctic Circle, while the roving habits of Esquimaux, and other cold-blooded inhabitants of these regions were opposed, we presume, to their undertaking the duties of telegraphists. The comparative success of the Atlantic cables then induced many to believe in the possibility of similarly spanning the Pacific, and we remark that, recently, this idea has taken the tangible form of a Company founded in San Francisco. In recent papers from this port we read of the incorporation of the Trans-Pacific Cable Company, at a meeting held at the Merchants' Exchange. Mr. Leland Stanford was elected President; Mr. Cesar Moreno, the projector, and Mr. J. F. Miller, Vice-Presidents; Mr. A. S. Hallidie, Secretary, and Mr. Mark L. Macdonald, Treasurer. Eleven other gentlemen were chosen as Directors, and the capital stock of the Company was fixed at Ten Million Dollars, divided into a hundred thousand shares of a hundred dollars each. We may mention that Mr. Moreno had previously tried to float his Company in London, where he completely failed, the several construction Companies requiring cash down for a cable; and that, judging from the meagre report before us of his remarks at the meeting in San Francisco, he appears to be under the most complete misconception as to the amount of earnings likely to be realized by such a line, and also as to the support to be got on this side of the Pacific from the taking-up of his stock. He said, for instance:—"There is no limit to money in China, I have seen vast amounts idle for want of investment." Nothing could be more directly contrary to the facts. Six bad years out of eight, culminating in famine, have greatly impoverished the country. Disafforestation has done its work, and the population having died out or moved into the cities, after eating the seed-corn and beasts of burden, whole provinces are relapsing into sandy steppes. There is no money in China for any purposes than those of her own dire necessities. The Shansi bankers, the Canton merchants, are poorer now than they have been for generations, and certainly the course of foreign trade has not, for the past eight years, been such as to leave any "vast sums for investment" in the hands of foreign merchants. With regard to the business for the new cable, to be got from China, Mr. Moreno is equally wrong. There is foreign business enough to give paying occupation to one cable, but not to the two now existing; which consequently do not find the China business pay—and, as it is not pretended that any special advantages are to be offered by the Trans-Pacific line, it is difficult to see how one-third of a business, of which one-half has been proved inadequate to give a fair profit, could return anything but a loss. Nor must the fact be here lost sight of, that of this foreign business, at least nine-tenths would consist of messages to New York and Europe, and from the gross charge for these would have to be deducted the tolls of the lines across America and of the Atlantic cables. As for the Chinaman 'securing his passage on railroad or steamer' or 'sending despatches, and offer-

ing a pound of tea or silk, or an animal's skin in payment' all this is the wildest bathos. Without pausing to note the discrepancy in value between a pound of silk and a pound of tea, or asking Mr. Moreno whether a grey fox or a sea-otter is to furnish the fee for the Chinaman's dispatch,—we would ask, how is any sudden increase of native messages to be expected to accrue from the establishment of the Trans-Pacific-Line? A line on the China coast, between Hongkong and Tientsin, carried overland as much as possible, and with a moderate tariff, might pay; but up to the present time, the coast traffic of China has borne a very small proportion to the whole trade; and there is certainly nothing whatever to be got out of it, which would justify the attempt to lay a deep sea line across the Pacific Ocean. No mention was made at the meeting, we remark, of any expected subsidy; which was judicious, as the United States Government seems to have lately shown unwillingness to grant subsidies for any purpose whatever; and we are very sure that neither from China or Japan can any be looked for. Japan makes a good profit out of the messages from outside passing over her local lines, and would, doubtless, give encouragement, to the extent of facilitating landing its shore end, to any new cable that offered an addition to this business; but neither shareholders nor subsidy need be hoped for here.

Turning now to the difficulties of laying the cable as proposed, we find them,—with the reservation we made in our first paragraph—almost insuperable. Across the Atlantic Ocean, the cables rest on a bed of comparatively even level and at practicable depth. But the recent cruise of the 'Challenger' has proved that the bed of the Pacific is infinitely more rugged, while it was in the very path of the proposed cable, that the deepest soundings ever made were taken. Therefore, the mere distance from Honolulu to Japan, nearly double that from Ireland to Newfoundland, by no means represents the length of line which would have to be used. Probably we understate the fact when we put 8,000 miles as the length requisite for the whole distance from San Francisco, across Japan, to China. And this line would have to be extra heavy, and the price of a mile of it is from £300 to £335: therefore, after expending nearly two millions and three quarters sterling on the cable, there would not be much left out of ten million dollars for the establishment of stations, for a steamer stationed at San Francisco, of 800 tons burden and 200 horse power, for another at Honolulu, and a third on this side, of the same size—which would be required for the inevitable constant repairs. Then must be taken into consideration the extreme difficulty of raising faulty sections from the Pacific depths; and the unavoidable injury done to the sound portions in the process. A line hauled up from a great depth suffers 'attenuation;' the core and its covering are elongated, and electric continuity is disturbed, while the outer sheathing is rendered permeable to water and the attacks of infusoria; all which is now matter of experience on the Atlantic lines, and, by experts, thought fatal to laying cables at greater depths.

To revert, for a moment, to the earnings of the line. The average life of a cable is now estimated, from the deteriorating effects of the sea and its animalcule inhabitants, and from the results of accidents and consequent disturbances referred to above,—not to exceed twelve-and-a-half years. Ten per cent of the cable's cost, to be laid aside for a reserve fund, for at least five years in succession, is, therefore, by no means too much to estimate for, when starting a new Company. And thus, requiring, as this line would do, fully Three Millions Sterling, for merely laying the cable, £300,000 a year must be earned and put by, before working expenses could be paid, or any dividend honestly distributed to shareholders.

The scheme is impracticable, the natural, mechanical, and economic obstacles, at the present stage of telegraphic science, insuperable. If it were worth while

to lay a cable from America to China, to supplement the two existing lines, which appear to us to be fully sufficient for the work to be done, there is no doubt that the proper route is across Behring's Straits and along the line of the Aleutian and Kurile islands, where much of the wire would be laid on land, where what must be submerged would be easily accessible, and where, consequently, the cost of maintenance would be reduced to a *minimum*. But, as we have shown, there is no need, no work for a third line, nor any chance of the line creating additional paying business for itself. We regret to have to write thus discouragingly of an enterprise apparently started in good faith and hopeful enthusiasm: but, however naturally anxious to welcome and foster any proposal to bring additional business to Japan, we should greatly fail in our duty, were we to shrink from exposing, clearly and candidly, faults and miscalculations like those we have noted, certain to bring disaster and disappointment on the promoters of any scheme, however theoretically promising. It only remains for us, therefore, cordially to recommend Mr. Cesar Moreno, Mr. Leland Stanford, and their colleagues, to reconcile themselves to the loss of 'preliminary expenses' as well as they can, and to pass the Trans-Pacific Cable Company through the process of liquidation as speedily as the San Francisco lawyers will permit.

THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. RICHARDSON.

A MOST unpleasant and ungrateful task is forced upon this journal by the reticence of English newspapers of longer standing in Yokohama, which appear to decline the responsibility of fulfilling a plain duty. The *Japan Times* is intended to be, what its title proclaims it, a 'Review' rather than a newspaper, and, endeavouring to supply to its readers essays, more or less instructive and intelligent, but always impartial, upon the 'commerce, politics, literature, and art' of Japan, it will but seldom happen that, in its leading columns, social questions will be brought under discussion. It is the special ambition of its conductor that its readers shall never be wearied by the personal altercations between individual correspondents, or the pseudo-impersonal squabbles of 'able editors' which so easily fill, but so terribly degrade, the mere newspapers of such a community as this. It will hardly ever happen, therefore, that a local contemporary print will be so much as named in these columns, and it is with the greatest reluctance that we have to-day—and only that it is in defence of the dead—to refer to an article in the *Tokio Times* of the 12th inst. which gives an entirely inaccurate and misleading account of the circumstances of what the writer justly calls 'a memorable murder,' but labours in vain to prove to have been otherwise that it was—a cowardly and completely unprovoked assassination.

The writer referred to may plead that, the *Tokio Times* not having been established till years after the event, when all the actors in this melancholy drama were dead or far away, he has had to compile his account of the transaction from such sources as are usually accessible to writers in newspapers; and to a limited extent, we may admit his plea. It is clear that he has allowed himself to be entirely misled by the anonymous author of a pamphlet called 'The Kago-shima Affair: a Chapter of Japanese History' published in Tokio in 1875, apparently for the purpose of disturbing the harmonious relations between Great Britain and Japan, by misrepresenting the actions of the servants of the British Government of the time, who had to perform the unpleasant duty of punishing a Japanese criminal, whom the Shogoon's Government confessed itself powerless to bring to justice. And, in so far as he has been misled by the unscrupulous writer of this pamphlet, he may have the benefit of his excuse; but he has to exonerate himself from the grave charge of neglect to obtain the personal narra-

tives of the few remaining residents who were living in Yokohama on that mournful 14th of September 1862, who brought in Richardson's still warm body, and who nursed Marshall and Clarke, while recovering from their wounds; and from the graver charge of neglecting—while pretending to write history—to consult the best and most authentic narratives of the event: the depositions of the survivors, and the official Minutes of meetings of Residents, conferences of Foreign Ministers, and interviews of Foreign Ministers with the Gorōjiu and other native authorities, all of which were as accessible to him, as they are at this moment to us, in the files of the *Japan Herald* and in the English Blue-Books. * He may be able to explain this negligence: he certainly owes the explanation to his public: for, failing it, the writer in the *Tokio Times*, having adopted and incorporated into his article the inaccuracies of "The Kagoshima Affair" must share the obloquy which rests upon its anonymous author.

With the preliminary part of the article of which we complain, and with the writer's first extract from the 'Kagoshima' pamphlet, we have no concern. Condensing the cloud of verbiage which follows, we distil the following version of the circumstances preceding and immediately surrounding the assassination, as related by the author of the 'Chapter of Japanese History' and the contributor to the *Tokio Times*. One of the articles of the Treaties with Foreign Powers provided that foreigners, citizens of the friendly States, should be free to go where they pleased, as far as the river Rokugo, at Kawasaki, and within a circuit of ten *ri* (some twenty-six or twenty-seven miles) in any other direction. In those days there was no race-course, no New Road; and the Tokaido, the main road to Yedo, was the only ground upon which exercise on horseback could be pleasantly taken, and the stretch of level highway between Kanagawa and Kawasaki, was accordingly the favourite outlet for what the writer calls 'the rambling propensities' of foreign residents. (It must here be interpolated that, from 1858, when the first Treaties were concluded, until a few months before the assassination of Richardson, the foreign Consulates were all located at Kanagawa, that being the port opened by the Treaties, the record of the fact being still preserved in the official style and title of at least the British Consulate. Also that though, for trivial convenience several Consulates had been removed to Yokohama, the American establishment still remained on the other side of the bay.) But to the feeble government of the Shogoon, exercising, only by a sort of sufferance, jurisdiction over the Daimios, who ignored or resented his arrangements with foreigners, the exercise of our right to traverse the Tokaido was a constant source of solicitude, lest that should happen which did happen, on the 14th of September; and it was their habit to warn the foreign Ministers, who passed on the notifications to their fellow-countrymen, that, on such and such days, some Daimio or other dignitary would be passing to or from Yedo, and that, on such occasions, foreigners would do well to keep off the highway. And such warnings were at first accepted in good faith, and attended to. But they became so frequent, as to lead to remonstrance and protest. With our present fuller knowledge of the state of parties in Japan in 1862, we understand now that these precautions, and others—such as the erection of gates, and establishment of guard houses—were *bona fide* efforts of the Shogoon's Government to protect foreigners' lives and property, and to avoid embroilment of themselves with Foreign Powers; but in those days,—the Gorōjiu exaggerating their master's power, and arrogating for him a paramount sovereignty over the country, which he by no means possessed,—it was perfectly natural that foreign Ministers and foreign merchants should resent and resist what appeared to them to be, under pretext

* To these, the author of the pamphlet only refers once—and gives a garbled extract.

of care for their safety, an attempt to make of Yokohama a second Decima. And Colonel Neale, the *Chargé d'Affaires* in the absence of Mr. Rutherford Alcock, the British Minister, happened, on the very day of the assassination, to have put this resistance, for the first time, into the form of an official dispatch. The Gorōjiu had intimated to him, that morning, that, on the next day, the 15th of September, (this date must be marked) Ohara Sayemon-no-Kami, a special Envoy of the Mikado to the Shogoon, would leave Yedo on his return to the Southern Capital, and that on the 16th, as he would be passing through Kanagawa, it would be well for foreign residents to avoid meeting his train. Colonel Neale, replying on the same date (the 14th) very properly protested against the brief notice given, and, generally, objected to the breach of Treaty involved, but (a part of his dispatch dishonestly omitted in the quotation in the *Tokio Times*) wrote that he would abstain from "causing any interruption to the arrangements on the present occasion and that he would instruct the Consul "to request British subjects not to frequent the Tokaido "on the days in question"

Before it was possible for this Notification to be issued (which would have tabooed the Tokaido for the 15th and 16th) Mr. Richardson, Mrs. Borradaile, Messrs. Marshall and Clarke had started on their afternoon ride to wounds and death. That they rode out in full belief in the safety of the road, and the good will of the people, is proved by the facts that a lady was one of the company, and that, at a time when foreigners generally went armed in the streets of Yokohama, not one of them thought it worth while to encumber himself with a revolver. 'Unluckily,' as the *Tokio Times* puts it, Shimadzu Saburo, the father of the reigning Prince of Satsuma, left Yedo without notice, on the 13th, or morning of the 14th; and of his departure no warning was given to the foreign Ministers, not even a runner being sent in advance of his retinue. He met the English party two or three miles on this side of the Rokugo. Richardson was mortally, Marshall and Clarke severely wounded, and Mrs. Borradaile escaped from the chivalrous Satsuma gentlemen, with the loss of her hat, which was cleft in two by a sword-cut aimed at her head. It is with the circumstances surrounding this attack that we have now to do.

The author of the "Kagoshima Affair" prefaces his statement, by the assertion that

"the Satsuma leader for the second time put himself in opposition to the anti-foreign inclination of his subordinates. He gave strict commands that, in the event of meeting with strangers, his people should abstain from any demonstrations of hostility, that they should even give way, and turn aside, if they were confronted:—

and this, he says, he had from Shimadzu Saburo's own lips—an extraordinary statement, which we simply do not believe, and for which, considering the dishonest garbling of an official document of which we have convicted him, we think the foreign public, at least, are fairly entitled to ask some better guarantee than the unsupported word of an anonymous pamphleteer. More especially, as it happens that, in the *Japan Times* of the 27th of August, 1865, is on record an account, by a still producible eye witness, of an interview between Sir Harry Parkes and Shimadzu Saburo at Kagoshima, when the Japanese noble expressed his regret at this occurrence, and 'hoped that bygones might be left as bygones;' but never advanced any such defence of himself. Nor was any such defence ever advanced, by him, or for him, officially or otherwise, at any of the numerous conferences on the subject held throughout 1862-63. Also, reference to a quite authentic document, a minute native history of Japan, from 1854 to 1864, translated and published by the *Japan Mail* in 1871, shows with absolute clearness that the object of the mission of Ohara Sayemon and Shimadzu Saburo was to force the Bakufu on to the painful task of expelling foreigners from

the country. Also that, on his return to Kioto, Shimadzu was rewarded for the work he had done, receiving an increase of rank and a sword of honour. The assertion that he 'put himself in opposition to the anti-foreign inclination of his subordinates' is not, therefore, worthy of credence.

The *Tokio Times* then proceeds to give its version of the catastrophe. It is stated that the behaviour of Mr. Richardson was distinctly objectionable, in spite of Mrs. Borradaile's repeated requests to him to be more careful in his conduct, that he gave no heed to her remonstrances, and that he 'continued to push his horse in and out of the groups forming the cortège, reckless of menacing glances and gestures.' That at last Shimadzu's own *norimono* was met, escorted by a compact body of troops, who drew off to the left of the road; but that the English party would not do the same, Richardson insisting on 'holding the centre of the road.' That Clarke and Marshall felt it necessary to interpose:—

" 'Don't go on' said the former, we can turn into a side road? 'For God's Sake,' said Mr. Marshall, 'let us have no row.' 'Let me alone,' answered Richardson: 'I have lived in China fourteen years, and know how to manage these people.'

"A moment later, the blow fell. The commander of the Satsuma body-guard states that it had become evident that Mr. Richardson would not give way, and that his attitude indicated that he was determined to maintain his position, and compel even the *norimono* to give way to him. This is in a degree confirmed by a letter from the United States minister, who wrote that it was 'supposed' that the horse of one of the party forced itself between the *norimono* and the retainers who marched as a guard beside it.' At last the affront, in Japanese eyes, was unendurable. A soldier sprang from the ranks, and made an imperative sign to him to retire. The warning was now taken, but it was too late. As the party were endeavouring to turn their horses, the head of the column closed upon them. The three men were wounded almost at the same moment—Mr. Richardson fatally. Mrs. Borradaile was not hurt. They succeeded in breaking through the group of guards, and rode back at full speed toward Yokohama. Mr. Richardson soon fell from his horse and was never again seen alive by his companions. The others escaped, two with severe injuries, the lady with the shock of an agonizing terror."

This is all given—on what authority? On that of a Satsuma officer 'who has since attained a high position in the Japanese service' and who was leading the personal escort of Shimadzu. But, as this Satsuma officer presumably did not understand English, the exclamations of Clarke and Marshall are taken from the deposition of the latter gentleman (which shows that these depositions were before this dishonest writer) supplemented by a phrase, invented for the occasion to be put into Richardson's mouth, for which there is no evidence whatever. And the statement that Richardson would not give way, is what the writer calls 'confirmed'—by a 'supposition' of some informant of the American Minister!

Now let us turn to the depositions of the two wounded men and the evidence of a disinterested Japanese witness. It must be premised that the depositions of Marshall and Clarke were both taken on oath, two days after the event, when they had sufficiently recovered from the shock to be able to give evidence, but while they were both lying in bed, severely wounded. According to the law of all civilized countries, evidence given in such solemn circumstances is justly held to be of special weight. The depositions were taken independently of each other, no possibility existed of collusion, and in all material circumstances they agree. The account given in these is, that after passing, along about three and a-half to four miles of road, a series of small groups of *norimono*s and attendants, walking their horses while actually meeting these groups, and cantering when no one was in sight, they met the main body which

filled up the greater part of the road. 'We did not'—Mr. Marshall deposes:—

"go faster than a walking pace for at least a quarter of a mile before we came up to the procession, where we were attacked. We neither spoke, nor made gestures, nor did anything else whatever to give offence to the procession; in fact, we tried to get out of the way of 'avoid it.'"

On meeting this main body, they at once drew to the left, when a big man left the ranks, and stepped out in front of Mr. Richardson and Mrs. Borradaile, making menacing gestures. "Richardson looked back, and said: 'We are stopped.' Clarke said: 'Don't go on, we can turn into a side road.' I (Marshall) said: 'For God's sake, let us have no row. The party were then quietly turning their horses to retire, when—as the *Tokio Times* says: 'the blow fell.' It fell on Richardson first,—of course on his back. The cowardly assassins then closed round the party, hundreds against three unarmed men and a woman, and, as the Japanese historian whom we have quoted says, in concluding his account of the affair, 'the military glory of the house of Shimadzu shone more brightly.'"

Messrs. Marshall and Clarke, running the gauntlet of sword blows and spear thrusts, rode back along the line of the procession, and escaped with their lives. Richardson was not so fortunate: after galloping a few hundred yards, he fell from his horse. And then was perpetrated a savage atrocity, which the *Tokio Times* and the author of the "Kagoshima Affair" carefully conceal. We will relate it, in the words of a Japanese woman, who kept a tea house, close to the spot where the wounded man dropped. Her evidence was taken on the 28th, by the British Consul, and runs thus:—she

"recalled seeing a foreigner fall from his horse, on the afternoon of the 14th of September; he had a large wound in his stomach; went up to him, and he immediately asked for water, but she took him none, because too much afraid. Afterwards saw him drinking from a bottle (Mr. Richardson is known to have taken a bottle of champagne with him slung upon his arm). She asked him to get off the Tokaido, because, on looking up the road, she saw that a Daimio's cortège was approaching. She saw one of the advance guard of the train draw his sword, and attempt to cut the wounded foreigner's throat, but was prevented by his putting up both his hands; one of his hands was then cut away; more men came up, drew their swords, and hacked him; finally, one of them caught him by the beard and cut his throat; they then covered up the body with straw, and went on."

The medical evidence at the inquest enumerates ten horrible wounds.

And this the *Tokio Times* says was not an 'assassination': this plain statement, made up from the sworn depositions of men who lay, severely wounded; and the evidence of disinterested witnesses, and official minutes, letters, and other documents, it calls a 'flagrant misrepresentation of facts.' The crime has been atoned for; its record should be buried in oblivion. The former Japanese Government suffered heavily its consequences, and Shimadzu Saburo personally expressed to the British Minister his deep regret at its occurrence. The existing Government has led the people so far in advance towards a higher civilization, that all young Japan looks back upon the catastrophe as a stain upon the nation's record. That stain was fading before the dawn of a brighter day, when—without provocation,—for no conceivable reason that we can discover, than a morbid hatred of anything English—an anonymous pamphleteer revives the shameful story, and the *Tokio Times* now attempts to give it fresh life. The *Tokio Times* loses no opportunity of declaring that it 'supports' the present Government; is it possible that the intelligent statesmen who compose the Mikado's Cabinet desire to have such a supporter; desire to have the attention of foreigners drawn to what all are so willing to forget; to have excited again the fear so nearly laid to sleep, that under the varnish of Western civilization

still lies the rough grain of ferocity, treachery and lust for blood? It cannot be. For us, we have reluctantly taken up the subject; have exhausted it; and lay it down with a feeling of intense relief; our readers will understand that nothing but the compulsion of a sense of duty would have induced us to touch it. We have done. To the few who remain of the pioneers of foreign trade in Japan,—the 'old residents' of Yokohama,—it may seem that we have not fully discharged the duty which has devolved upon us. We have it, on the authority of St. PAUL, that it is sometimes "well to be angry," and surely, wrath can never be more righteous, than when excited in rescuing from slander the character of friends who have passed into the voiceless Silent Land. But a strong case is weakened by the employment of strong language: we have striven to be verbally moderate, and argumentatively fair. It is for the public to judge the case, and we do not fear the verdict.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The article from the *Hochi Shimbun* of which a translation is given in another column is remarkable in more than one particular. First, as confirming the view expressed by us that it was necessary for Japan to de-Orientalise herself before she can adapt her judicial system to the exercise of rights over natives of Western States resident within her limits. And secondly, showing that, however the native press and a few *soi-disant* well-wishers to Japan may harp on the necessity of subjecting foreigners to the jurisdiction of the various Ken and Fu courts, there are some Japanese who acknowledge, and are not ashamed to proclaim, the extravagance of such a contention. The writer in the *Hochi Shimbun* in exposing the fallacies of Mr. Umi Uchi's scheme of Hotch-pot law, displays an acquaintance with the history and science of jurisprudence, quite not free from error, but still the result of study and honest thought. Escaping from the errors of Umi Uchi on the formation of English Equity, which has grown, stratum on stratum, not been created by legislative will; he falls into the more pardonable confusion, shared in by the early schoolmen, between *jus gentium* and *jus inter gentes*, or international law. The *jus gentium* was the name given to a system of law gradually built up by the Roman prætors adapted to the conquered nations and settlers, precluded from citizenship and consequently deprived of the rights of tenure and contract, the *mancipium* and *nexum* required by the strictness of the civil law. The settlers or *peregrini* increased in numbers and importance; with their growth grew the fictions necessary to the judicial wants of the time, without breaking into the *jus civile*; until citizenship becoming a sham, the fictions of the *jus gentium* were openly admitted into the judicial system of the Roman Empire. As it is possible to some minds to arrive at a right conclusion from wrong premises; so, starting from opposite points of the political compass, we may gain the desired goal. A system of law analogous to the *jus gentium* might be constructed by the Japanese which, while sparing all the prejudices of Orientalism would be acceptable to the settler: Japan, the progressing nation of Eastern polity, borrowing from Rome the conquering nation of the West, might in time found a system, to be alight to guide the steps of jurists of future empires. With a *lex civile*, and trained judges, competent and earnest, she might succeed. In all her endeavours she has our best wishes, but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the fulcrum and lever are wanting.

The proposition for the formation of Mixed Courts which is taking the place of the position of exclusive jurisdiction, now found to be untenable, is a weak invention of the enemy. Having experience of the antagonistic views and advice of the Ministers accredited by different Powers, the Japanese know that a tribunal formed of such conflicting elements would never work. If the evil spirit of discord has hitherto prevented the adoption of a scheme for the Municipal direction of a settlement, how, when it is brought with seven-fold force to be applied to the decisions of vital questions, can it escape condemnation? The decisions of such a tribunal could but be arbitrament. Hard cases are said to make bad law, but arbitration makes worse: each arbitrator is, perforce, the advocate, and not the judge, of the principle which most benefits his own nationality. A decision can only be arrived at when the interests of two prompt a temporary treaty, to crush a

third. Even in affairs political, it is generally admitted that, although arbitration once achieved a success by the settlement of a discordant agitation, yet, since the success was gained at the cost of the dignity of the tribunal, the attempt to form a like one will never be renewed.

WE commend to the attention of our readers an announcement which appears in our Advertisement columns, to the effect that Madame Jacquemot, a lady who has resided in Yokohama for many years, proposes to return to Switzerland, and, in Geneva, to establish a school for girls, and for boys up to a certain age. One of the greatest drawbacks to residence in the East is the stern necessity under which parents find themselves placed, of parting with their children, just at the age when they most need parents' care. It is not with us in Japan, as in India, that we must send them out of an unhealthy climate lest they droop and die—we rejoice here in one of the finest climates of the world—but we have still to part with them, to afford them education which, except at great cost, can hardly be given to them here. But children born in Japan, or who have lived here during their first years, require specially careful attention; and a knowledge of the circumstances which have surrounded their infancy such as is possessed by any resident,—and which Madame Jacquemot's length of residence here gives her in ample degree—must necessarily be of the greatest advantage to a teacher. Geneva, as we need hardly tell Europeans, is probably almost the best place in Europe for getting sound, intelligent and thorough education, with the advantage that it is a very cheap and most healthy residence. Mme. Jacquemot's numerous friends here will be sorry to lose her, but those who have children to commit to her care have to congratulate themselves on the decision she has taken.

OUR article on the assassination of Mr. Richardson, though extending to great length, could not, of necessity, include a complete reply to all the incorrect statements, respecting foreign residents in Japan generally, which appeared in the pamphlet we were reviewing, or rather in such parts of it as were quoted by the *Tokio Times*. But there is one point, made by the pamphleteer, which some may think we should not fail to notice. Though he pretends to lay little stress on it, the tenor of the pamphlet as a whole is meant to give the impression that Richardson and his friends ought to have shown some mark of respect to Shimadzu Saburo, and if they had, would probably have escaped. Here is one passage referring to the point:—

"They saw certain Japanese from Yokohama, who were known to some of the party, standing beside their horses, from which they had dismounted, according to a rule which no native would have dreamed of infringing at that time. One of the most inexorable regulations of Japanese etiquette was that no casual passenger should continue to ride, either upon his horse or in any conveyance, during the occupancy of the road by a dignitary of high station. Whether this usage should or should not be held applicable to Europeans is a point hardly worth discussing. Most visitors in strange lands recognize the expediency, if not the propriety, of conforming to the established public customs. A traveller who should refuse to lift his hat at the approach of a European monarch would not escape uncomfortable treatment on the plea that he came from a distance and owed no allegiance to the sovereign in question. It is certain that no Japanese would have been suffered to pass unmolested even the advance of the procession, through which Mr. Richardson and his friends were allowed to move for some miles."

This is all misleading. In the first place, Shimadzu Saburo was not the sovereign of the country, and in no European country is it imperative to salute noblemen with whom one has no personal acquaintance. Secondly, it is not correct to say, as the writer says: that no Japanese would have been suffered to pass unmolested the straggling cortège of baggage bearers and subordinate retainers which preceded Shimadzu and his body guard. And, finally, we would ask, to what depth of humiliating obeisance would this writer have had Richardson and his friends to descend? A Japanese, in those days, had to grovel in the dust, on such an occasion. Should these English gentlemen have done the same? And is it possible that this pamphleteer knows so little of Japan and the Japanese of 1862 as to imagine that any thing of the

sort was expected, or that their lives would have been spared had they dismounted? The three survivors were saved, only because they were able to keep their saddles; had they dismounted at the approach of Shimadzu, we should have had to have buried four mangled corpses instead of one.

IT is rather an odd circumstance that the second 'Query' sent to us for publication in search of an answer should be one sent over twelve years ago, to the old *Japan Times*, when we first opened the column to querists. The Altar, the Cradle and the Tomb, seem to have a perennial interest. Titsingh gives an elaborate account, we believe, of some of the ceremonies respecting which our Tokio friend is inquisitive: but having the file of the old paper at hand, we cannot do better than extract for him the answer to part, at least, of the Query, by our Editor in those days, of this very useful part of the *Japan Times*.

Williams' "Middle Kingdom" by the way, we would suggest to our correspondent, is a better authority than Sir John Davis' "Chinese"; being the outcome of fully twenty years' more experience, though Davis' work is of undeniable value.

It is from Japanese readers of the *Times*, of course, and from those European students who are specially engaged, especially in Tokio, in working with Japanese, that we expect to get the majority of our 'Notes.' It is easy enough to coach up a 'Note' and then frame a 'Query' with a pseudo-signature, to fit it; and as we confessed, in introducing this column to our readers' notice, we were reduced to this expedient in the old days, when few, or none, of the natives knew English, and those foreigners who knew anything of Japanese could be counted on one's fingers. But journalism in Japan was then really almost a joke; and when our 'Notes and Queries' column tottered in this way for want of support, we abolished it. Times have changed, and the laugh has been taken out of us, by so many disastrous years in Silk, Tea, and Imports; and the conduct of a newspaper has become a serious matter. We can promise our readers, therefore, that all our 'Queries' shall be *bona fide*, and, as soon as the supply ceases or we cannot get 'Notes' in reply, we will drop the column again as a useless incumbrance.

During the past week, we have received the following

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

London, January 19th, 1878.—Parliament was opened by Royal Commission on the 17th instant, when the Queen's Speech adverted to the proposals made for Peace, and stated that the Emperor of Russia had expressed a hope that a pacific solution of the difficulties might be arrived at through the good offices of England. It also stated that Great Britain had hitherto respected neutrality, but if the War was prolonged, circumstances might oblige the country to take precautionary measures, and the Government therefore trusted that Parliament would act with liberality and supply the necessary means. It was further stated in the Speech that Government intended to make no proposals until the terms for Peace likely to be required by Russia were made known, and so ascertain whether the war was likely to approach localities affecting British interests, in which case the Government would be prepared to defend the interests of Great Britain.

The House of Commons negatived an amendment to the Queen's Address.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

London, 19th January, 1878.—Despatches report that the losses of the Russian Forces at the capture of Schipka numbered 5,464 men; also that Russian troops have occupied Philipopolis, and part of their army is threatening Adrianople.

There is a suspension of hostilities in Bulgaria.

London, January 21st, 1878.—Despatches report that the Russian troops have arrived before Adrianople, the

garrison of which city is retreating towards Constantinople.

The Sultan of Turkey has called out for military service all men in his country capable of bearing arms, for the defence of Constantinople and the line of the Scheldaldja.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A general rising of the Galekas has taken place, and there has been severe fighting, in which the British troops have been successful.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the *JAPAN TIMES* must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1878.

DEATH.

At Yokohama, January 23rd, CHARLES ASHTON, the infant son of Chas. J. and Josephine Emily Strome.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SINCE we wrote last we have received both the French and English mails, the *Tanais* bringing despatches from London via Marseilles, of the 30th November, and arriving here on the 19th inst. and the *Bombay*, with dates to December 7th coming in this morning. The *Sunda* left with the homeward mail on the 22nd inst. and the usual coast steamers have arrived and departed. But, is not this all written in the chronicles of our shipping intelligence?

We have again been fortunate in our weather: a fine, frosty, seasonable, time; but tempered, too, with bright sun in the mornings, which has nicely aired the days for delicate throats and lungs, before exposure to the chill air. Skating has been actively practised by the experts of the art on the very miniature rink in a paddy field close to the Athletic Society's ground at the foot of the Rifle Range. To a mere spectator, ignorant of the divine art, how very diverse are the styles of various professors. There is your ponderous, deliberate skater, a big portly man, who gyrates, with a sort of majestic grace, reminding one of the old school of waltzing, which was, to compare with your modern *trois temps*, like the savouring of Burgundy, sip by sip, to the tossing off your goblet of creaming, but too evanescent, Champagne. 'Tis an odd thing, by the way, how graceful fat men often are. By far the most elegant waltzer in the fashionable Edinburgh balls, twenty, or five and twenty years ago, was a gentleman who weighed two and twenty stone when he came of age; and who was, besides, an excellent 'point' in the cricket field. That there is a dignity inseparable from corpulence has often been remarked, an upright carriage of the head and stateliness of stride are two of the consolations of a Banting; but the grace of movement, the 'poetry of motion' are not so often noticeable, because, as a rule, your fat man declines such exercise as allows of their display. Then you have your jerky, fussy, little skater, to whom pace seems to be the *summum bonum*, and who reminds one of Mr. Perker, in 'Pickwick,' or Pancks, in 'Little Dorrit'—ungraceful, angular, erratic,—at the very opposite pole of the art to the skater deliberate. And alas for him, if their opposite poles come into collision, as they sometimes do, for Gigas calmly occupies the centre of the pond, while Pancks must be always flying up and down it, as often backwards as in the way affected by ordinary mortals; and when collision does take place, the inexorable laws of dynamics come into play, and are illustrated to the great discomfiture of the smaller body. Then, of course, in skating, there are all gradations of skill, from the artist who cuts eights and nines on the outside edge, to the tyro who 'splodders' about in every one's way, and only 'cuts a figure' of a ridiculous sort. But for all, it affords good exercise in pure air, and as such must be healthful and useful. We wonder why a larger space had not been prepared for a skating rink; but it is presumable that 'what was every body's business was nobody's business,' or that some petty difficulty was made at the Kencho. One can understand the objection to paper-chasing, and that pos

sible injury to some crops may be a result of that sport; but surely, with gate money of twenty sen per head, which is what the owner of this little bit of paddy ground gets, and which nobody grudges to pay, he must reap a harvest in winter many times richer than he ever did in the autumn. In '68 and '69, we remember, there used to be a piece of ground three or four times as big, flooded for the purpose; and surely, if any one would take the trouble to communicate with the Governor on the subject, an arrangement could easily be come to for the preparing and properly flooding a much larger piece of ground than that at present in use. And why should not the numerous Scotchmen here get up a Curling Rink? Sixty yards by forty gives you as big a pond as many a good Club in Scotland can boast of, and affords room for three good rinks. We submit that this suggestion is worth following up. To carry it into practice, application should be made this season to the Governor, and the site selected, and we should then have ample time to get out the stones, cramps &c. in time for next winter. The Caledonian Club would at once grant a medal, and the Curlers' 'beef and greens' would give us one more pleasant night to enliven this dull time of year.

We hear from Kobe that, a very unusual thing, they too have had some skating. They have a splendid pond, or mountain tarn, but have to walk a couple of miles up hill to get at it. We have had most amusing accounts of the enthusiasm with which the sport has been followed up there.

We understand that the Yokohama Choral Society has recommenced operations, with about twenty five active members, and that an Amateur Orchestra is also being formed in connection therewith. The work in rehearsal is Haydn's Creation and could the chorus be increased to about forty members, we doubt not that we should soon have the pleasure of hearing a performance of this genial work. We would strongly recommend all who can sing and will sing, to at once send their names to the Hon. Sec., Mr. J. T. Griffin, so that all the available vocal talent of the settlement may be enlisted in so good a cause. Surely it is not impossible to find forty vocalists and twenty instrumentalists? The Society possesses an energetic working Committee and in Mr. Keil, an indefatigable conductor. The quality of the nucleus is good, and we have faith to believe that the quantity required will soon be forthcoming. Meetings for practice are held every Wednesday in the Gaiety Theatre at 5 p.m. And if we might, without offence, give a hint to Amateurs, it would take the form of an exhortation to strict punctuality and regular attendance. A great deal of valuable time gets cut to waste by neglect of punctuality, and, without regular attendance at rehearsals, it is absolutely impossible, that any work of the kind, dramatic or musical, can be ultimately given with that smoothness and finish which perfect execution demands. It is especially those quicker to learn, or more advanced in their art, who should compel themselves to regularity, and put aside all other engagements that could interfere with this. Because, the better they know their parts, the nearer they approach to absolute perfection, so much the more valuable becomes their example, and the support—in concert singing especially—which their confidence and command over their score, give to the weaker members of the corps. If this advice be taken, we are sure that the work of preparation will be much more rapidly got through, and the result will be more gratifying, both to performers and audience. We hope soon to be able to report that good progress is being made.

On Tuesday night there was a performance by Japanese acrobats at the Gaiety Theatre, which was so good as to be worthy of particular description, as well as of the usual and almost meaningless phrases of general commendation given to the previous attempts of the troop by the local press. The stage of the theatre is very ill-adapted for the requirements of Japanese acrobats, there not being sufficient height to display fully the feats performed. Thus, one of the cleverest had to be shown in a position where the principal performer could not be seen, and the most difficult part of the work therefore missed the commendation it deserved. But, with all these disadvantages, there was room enough for the Japanese to perform extremely well some very difficult 'business' and we were glad to see that Mr. White's efforts to amuse the Yokohama public were rewarded by a fairly good and appreciative 'house.'

The party consists of an old man, the chief, whom we recollect very well, performing at private houses here fifteen years ago, and who has since been pretty well round the world; a young man who does very well the tub and pole balancing tricks, and a couple of girls; the younger, a child of 11 years of age, being the 'star' of the company. To these were added, on Tuesday night, a monkey.

The child we have mentioned above, opened the evening's performance with an exhibition of rope dancing, and repeated it later in the evening, but upon a *silk cord* instead of a rope. This we do not recollect having seen done before, and it certainly is about the cleverest thing of the kind we ever witnessed. Our readers must understand that this cord is literally not $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an inch in diameter, by no means so thick, not half so thick indeed, as ordinary window-

blind cord. In fact, when the string was put up, it appeared incredible to the writer, who passed it through his hands, that it could support the child's weight, and, of course, to the audience it must have been quite invisible, and the girl must have appeared to be walking in mid air. On this, as on the thicker rope before, she walked backwards and forwards, turned (imagine going right-about-face on a slack string little more than a sixteenth of an inch thick!) lay down and sat down, rising to her feet again with perfect ease—and all with no artificial means of balance whatever. Blondin could not do it, to save his life, and there is very little doubt that if this little creature were to perform in Europe, she would draw excessively well. How is it that these Japanese acrobats manage to dispense with the balancing pole? We don't know if any of our readers ever tried it, but to walk along the edge of a plank with a pole, is by no means difficult, and can be done with very little practice; and of course to walk across a rope strained tight as these ropes are strained, is only a degree more difficult. But here is an elastic silken string, attached only at each end, and swaying from side to side at every movement of the dancer, and with no artificial help whatever, she moves upon it—not with perfect freedom, of course, that is out of the question, but certainly as easily as any European armed with the usual balancing pole. It is possible that their diet steadies nerve and muscle, and it is certain that the prehensile power of their toes and feet generally is far greater than anything our acrobats attain to, being really almost equal to that of the hands: yet this hardly seems enough to account for their marvellous skill. It can't very well be long practice, for here we see a child of 11 years of age perfectly at home in the difficult position, actually swaying the string from side to side, till it rocked to and fro like a poplar in March. We must confess ourselves baffled, and our best acrobats beaten.

The other parts of the performance were good enough in their way, but they were generally not very novel. The elder girl did the well-known butterfly trick rather clumsily; the old man performed, with three little truncheons, the familiar ball tricks of our street jugglers and did it with a grace, precision and dexterity, which gained much well deserved applause: the intent expression of his very comical face also tickling the audience immensely. Especially noteworthy in this very clever feat was the absolute disconnection of action of the hands. The younger man did the tub balancing tricks fairly well, and also the well known 'business' with the little girl, called in the profession, we believe, the 'Risley business'; its first exponent being an acrobat who was afterwards resident here for some time. Two or three movements in this, by the way, appear to be peculiar to the Japanese, as bending the child into an arch, of which the abutments are one foot and one hand of the man, and the whole was extremely well done; as also was the pole balancing. Here again, these people beat us—for, instead of a stiff pole, whereof the end goes into a socket, attached to the waist of a man who moves about freely on his feet, while the second performer is posturing on the upper end,—they employ a comparatively flexible bamboo, the supporter lies on his back and takes the pole on his shoulder, and really the performer at the upper end of the bamboo appears to have as much to do with the balancing as the man below.

So very remarkable was the little child's performance on the slack rope, that it beat 'all to fits' an attempt made by a monkey afterwards to do something similar. The animal ought, one would imagine, to have shown more confidence, prehensile power of foot, and agility, than the child, and yet this was not the case, for the monkey seemed desperately uneasy, very much afraid of falling, and excessively glad to be taken down; whereas, but for a preternatural gravity unsuited to a child, and a certain fixity of gaze necessary to the work, the little girl seemed perfectly at her ease, and rather to enjoy her difficult task; and as comfortable as a sparrow on a telegraph wire.

We did not wait to see the whole performance, and probably some 'bonne bouche' was reserved for the last: but we saw enough to enable us conscientiously to recommend Mr. White's company to the patronage of the Yokohama community, as decidedly the best of their kind who have yet exhibited here. All the arrangements for the comfort of the audience were well attended to; the audience, though the majority of the tickets were sold at fifty cents, were perfectly orderly and well-behaved; there is nothing in the performances, difficult as they are, to excite apprehension or fear; nor anything to shock the most fastidious taste. In fine, Mr. White deserves the patronage of the 'elite' of Yokohama Society, and we hope he will get it.

We have to note the occurrence of a fire which, on Wednesday night, burnt No. 12, fortunately an empty house. Much damage was done, however, to the goods of Messrs. Isaacs Brothers' store next door by water and removal. We are sorry to be wholly unable to pay any compliment to the Fire Brigades on this occasion. Yokohama is sadly in need of a Municipal Reformer.

A British subject, a sailor of the name of William Brown has been killed by some unknown persons, and on Monday his body was found in the Creek. The poor man had the character of being a quiet, inoffensive, sober person, and robbery apparently was the motive for the deed. No clear whatever seems to exist by which to trace his murderers.

The Mikado, on Thursday, opened a new Agricultural College in Tokio. An excellent account of the ceremony, and description of the Institution appeared in the *Gazette* of last night, to which we must refer our readers, as we received the hint to stay away which is conveyed by neglect to send an invitation.

LATEST REUTER'S TELEGRAM.

London, 24th January, 1878.—Despatches report that the Russian forces have arrived before Keshan and that a panic has taken place at Gallipoli.

The Turkish Parliament has petitioned the Sultan of Turkey to endeavour to hasten the conclusion of peace, at the same time however, it has resolved, that should the conditions demanded for peace be exorbitant, the country will continue the war to the last extremity.

Suleiman Pasha with his troops is at Kavala.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JAPAN TIMES.

Yokohama, 25th January, 1878.

SIR,—There is a trite old saying:—"Jack of all trades and master of none!" which impressed itself very forcibly on my mind while reading a very irascible editorial article, anent Silk, which appeared in a recent number of the *Japan Weekly Mail*.

We all know that a man may be a good Tea-taster, and eke have a smattering of many other arts, without having a practical knowledge of shoe-leather; in the same way, another may attain the position of a successful barrister, and even upon a pinch pass muster as the Editor of a weekly journal, without possessing a thorough knowledge of the craft and mystery of the Silk Trade. Neither indeed do we expect him to have this knowledge: but we do hold, that it is his duty to consult some competent authorities before delivering himself of a dogmatic, disjointed tirade upon so important a subject. He would not then have committed himself to such misguided statements as the following:

1.—"Seed has been exported for years, yet while the price of 'cards has declined the demand for Japan silk has not lessened."
2.—"and the history of the silk trade in Japan shews clearly enough that the export of seed has neither deteriorated the quality nor lessened the quantity of Japanese silk."

I could gather many other similarly "bad shots" from the leader in question, but these two will suffice for my present purpose: which is to show that some of the *Mail's* own clientele, or even reference to the old files of his paper, could have furnished him with information, which would have kept "Jack" from displaying his ignorance of this particular trade.

In reply to extract No. 1:—I perceive a letter signed J. G. in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of 18th Oct., 1875; in which the writer, after carefully reviewing the progress of the art of Silk-culture from China, its fountain head eastward into Japan, and westward through India, Persia, Asia Minor, and Turkey into Italy and France; demonstrates that—with proper care in the "education" of the worms, as well as in the sorting of cocoons and reeling of the thread—Asiatic silk may be made to take precedence of the best European varieties. The letter concludes with this remarkable passage:—

"Now, the Japanese have hitherto shewn some inclination to adopt Western ideas and civilization,—at any rate on the surface of things—and there is no doubt that if they will give themselves up liberally to the idea of growing their silk in accordance with European usage, they may for many years to come ensure a ready, and even eager market for their produce at good and remunerative prices. On the other hand, if they do not take warning in time, the present dislike among 'Consumers' to Japan silk will increase, until it become, what is so forcibly expressed by the words 'a drug in the market.'"

The italics are mine, and I would like to point out the fact, (which every Silk merchant can bear witness to,) that Japan Silk, shortly after the above was written, did actually sink to the level of a 'drug in the market'; the price of the article in the home markets actually falling below its relative value. And why?—simply because the improvident Japanese hastened to sell his best seed to Italian *graineurs* while he reared and reeled the inferior qualities himself.

In reply to extract No. 2; I have now before me a pamphlet

entitled:—"Review of the Japan Silk Trade for the Season 1873, '74" the writer of which was well known to the *Japan Mail*, and often contributed to its columns. From this review I cull the following:—

"If the trade in silkworm's eggs has not materially affected the quantity of our export, its influence on the quality of Japan silk has been manifest. There are some favored districts in the province of Joshu, Shinshiu and Oshiu which produce the best eggs in Japan. When the foreign competition ceases, when the native silkwormer may revert to his former custom of deriving his yearly supply of eggs from the best sources at a moderate price, then, we hope, will Japan silk regain that reputation which it won during the period from 1860 to 1865; and lost, soon after foreigners, by exporting the best seed, deprived the country of one primary condition in the production of good silk."

Again the italics are mine. To this strong testimony I will only add that every man in the trade admits the fact that the export of seed has caused a marked deterioration in the quality of native grown silk, and further argument on the point would be futile. Truth before everything,—and Truth is modest" says the *Mail*. Surely the writer of the discursive diatribe of January 12th should confess, in the name of Truth, that he knows nothing about the matter, and admit that, for once, "Jack" was induced to hazard a public performance without the oversight of his master.

To conclude:—it is well known that the export of good seed has had a serious effect upon the quality of Japan silk and it is doubtless to the interest of all natives engaged in the trade, that this seed should be grown, instead of exported. It is also to the interest of manufacturers in Europe; for they all, with one voice, confess that they would much prefer a Japan silk grown in Japan to a European raw grown from Japan seed; not, as the *Mail* erroneously asserts, because it is capable of more "weighting," but, because the Japanese silkworm, reared in its native land, spins a thread of better "nerve" than it does when transported to an alien clime and is fed with different food. The Japanese grower should also pay more attention to the "education" of the worm on European models: the occupation of reeler should be separated from that of grower, the latter selling his cocoons to the former, who in his turn should subject them to a rigid process of sorting for size, colour, and quality, before commencing to reel: let this be followed by a careful system of reeling and cleaning, and there is no reason why Japan Silk should not rise to the first place in the produce of the world.

The *Japan Mail* had better confine itself to the publication of new acrostics and old chess problems; discussions on Japanese botany and the highly interesting questions whether "fu tong" should be spelt with an f or an h, and whether we should, in future, talk of the great commercial emporium of the country as was Osaka—or, hilariously pronounce it Oho! Saka—and leave serious commercial subjects, interesting to the mercantile community, to the better informed writers whom you, Sir, have apparently the secret of inducing to contribute to the columns of a local Review.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

YAMAMAI.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter 4. THE BIWA BANDITS.

AN evil night would have been his most probable prospect who, in the times of Taiko, started with only the stars as guides to traverse the peaks that looked down on Lake Biwa; for nothing wandered there then, but the hunter and the hunted. Unseen by mortal eye, the lily and the egg-plant, from season to season, bloomed and faded far down in the depths of torrent-torn valleys, and the summer wind that shook their petals, came untainted by the dust of roads, or the smoke of homesteads. Hill and hollow, cliff and cleft, rock and ravine, such a scene of trackless and tortuous wilderness, that a passer-by might well have marvelled at the self-reliance of one who, seated on the trunk of a fallen pine, suffered the twilight to overtake him, a few evenings after the day that had driven Gorokichi for ever from the village of Ishikawa. The swords which the man carried in his girdle were not absolutely ill-assorted with his hunter's garb, nor did his features bear the soil of aught but sun and service, yet was there an equivocal something in his presence that awakened instincts of mistrust.

He was looking down the path that scarcely asserted its right to such a name, amid the rocks and ferns, and the thought that dilated his eye was one of much astonishment, for up the mountain side a solitary figure was toiling; the figure of a man, it might be some five or six and twenty years old, his frame muscular and well knit, and his fresh, handsome face somewhat marred by weariness. He wore the costume of a merchant, and carried a sword unusually long for one of his class.

The new-comer, apparently delighted at the aspect of a fellow creature, forthwith addressed the man on the log, prefacing his speech with due measure of bows and greeting:—

"Pardon my rudeness, Sir, but I should judge from your appearance that you are a hunter, and if so, well acquainted no doubt with these mountains. For my part, five hours of incessant walking up and down endless steepes, has so completely wearied me, that if you will show me the way to the nearest house, it will be indeed a kindness."

While the traveller spoke, the other subjected him to a scrutiny almost insolently undisguised, and protracted for some moments in silence. At last, hardly noticing the salutations that had been addressed to him, he answered in a species of monologue:—

"Well, I wonder what your business may be. One could scarcely expect to find a seeker of houses among the mountains of Omi. Your pursuit is not likely to be a very profitable one, young man."

"Apparently not," replied the new-comer, seating himself on a rock with the air of one who prepares to study some curiosity at his leisure. But that depends a good deal on myself, and on the aid I hope to derive from my fortunate encounter with you."

"Your encounter with me may not bring you much gain, Mr. Merchant," retorted the other gruffly.

"Indeed!" said the traveller with an assured smile: "certainly searching for civility here seems like 'looking for fish on a hill top.' However, the benefit I shall derive from your society is tolerably certain, I think."

"How so?" demanded the hunter:—

"Simply because you must live somewhere. I presume, and not being able to decipher these strange paths myself, I mean to take the liberty of following you."

"You mean to take the liberty of following me," cried the other, almost startled out of his self-possession. "But what if I objected to be followed?"

"Surely it is unnecessary to consider a case that can only arise from your own irrationality!" said the young merchant naively; "allow me to remind you, that between man and man, a simple request does not generally excite so much caution and such scant courtesy."

"Well, but what is your business?" demanded the hunter, whose insolence was gradually beginning to give way before the other's insouciance.

"I am not sufficiently fortunate to have any business," replied the traveller, "and my purse is too light to cause me any concern on the score of the banditti, by whom they say this place is infested."

"Banditti!" said the hunter with a start, "well—yes, banditti there are, they say, but I for my part do not fear them. However, night is falling, and, without a guide, you are as far from a house as if there was no house at all. What say you? Shall I find you a lodging?"

"I shall be immensely obliged if you will," answered the young merchant, and thereupon, without further parley, the man of the log, straightening his gaunt, sinewy figure, led the way down the cliff.

Arrived at the bottom, they found themselves beside a dense pine wood, and through this the guide, threading his way, emerged at the margin of the lake. Thence along the edge of the water, stepping always upon boulders and pebbles, too flinty and rugged to acknowledge the impress of a pathway, he strode with the rapid pace of long habit to a point where, at a bend of the shore, an excited little mountain torrent leaped out from beneath a monster rock into the quiet bosom of the lake. Passing behind this rock, the guide grasped the barkless arm of a stout mimosa, and swung himself on to the broad shoulders of a stone that pushed itself out overhead. Then, without paying any attention to his companion's progress, he began to climb along the very bed of the tiny cataract; under rocks, over rocks, round rocks, sometimes barred by branches, some-

times helped by them, here backwards, there forwards, now to the right, anon to the left, and always hidden from the daylight by dense entanglements of bough and parasite; until they reached at last a narrow pathway, on either side of which walls of cane bamboo rose to a height of seven or eight feet. This path had evidently been out in the jungle, and the feet of the wind, rustling among the cane tops seemed to travel away, to left and right, over vast stretches of untrodden thicket.

A long mile of this slender passage led the two men at last to a well-sheltered hollow among the hill-tops, and here the traveller saw a creation that he had almost attributed to the mountain genii, so miraculous was its presence amid such surroundings. A house, stout, ample and fairly fashioned, with thickly thatched roof, far stretching eaves, and gardens lacking neither shrub nor rookery.

The man of the log, anticipating any expression of his companion's wonder, said:—

"You will be surprised no doubt to find such a house in such a place, but we pay no taxes up here, and lonely as the region is, it affords easily all the materials for what you see there. Besides" he added with a significant glance at his companion, "we have to keep out those banditti you speak of."

They were now before the gate, which was opened after some parley, and the traveller's guide leading him to the vestibule, desired him to wait a moment till the chief's wishes were consulted. The young merchant, who had apparently resolved not to be surprised at anything, seated himself composedly on the mats, while the other passed through the hall, traversed two or three passages, and finally entered a large chamber, whose aspect first suggested an idea of the occupant's employment. An armorer in such a region could scarcely have expected to see his porch entered by many customers, yet an armoury the house apparently was; for stands of arquebuses and bows, racks of spears and halberts, with piles of chain shirts and breastplates, occupied the whole apartment, save, it might be, one fourth of the central space at the far end, where the floor, raised some six or seven inches above the surrounding mats, assumed the form of a finely grained threshold, supporting a series of sliding doors, whose frames of embossed lacquer enclosed borders of damasked silk, and within these, panels cunningly painted to represent the tortures of the damned in the eighth *inferno*.

Into this inner chamber and the presence of the chief, the man of the log passed with much show of ceremony. The chief, a little, keen-eyed man, sat looking into the garden, and the smoke from his pipe almost seemed to mingle with the spray of the waterfall that tumbled and jumped without the veranda. Down in the marts, men's first care and chief difficulty in fashioning a garden, is to create something of the rough and rugged, to reproduce a little of the idea that nature suggests; but how light all this labour becomes, when the rocks are already climbing upon one another, the ferns already trailing from fissures opened by the earthquake, and the water leaving everywhere in its headlong course, pools where only the eagle can drink!

"Sir," said the man of the log, "I found one, apparently a merchant, wandering about the hills in the neighbourhood this evening, and I had to choose between helping him to a sword cut, or bringing him with me, for he is either so simple or so determined, that there's no shaking him off. He declared that unless I showed him the way, he would take me for his guide by following me to my house."

"And why did you not show him the way, Washidzukai?" asked the chief simply? "Surely there are many ways that one can point out, besides the right one."

"Yes, Sir, but that depends a good deal on the man you have to deal with. Even had I succeeded in misleading this young merchant, which is very unlikely, it would not have contented me to leave him roaming about so near us, for a lost man, as they say, often finds what he is not looking for."

"So then, to be brief, you have brought him here, I suppose?"

"Yes, Sir, he is now in the vestibule."

"If that be so, we have to deal with results, not reasons. Show him in here, please."

So, the man of the log again acting as guide, his charge presently found himself bowing before the chief in the

inner chamber, to whom he briefly expressed his acknowledgments for the hospitality afforded, attributing his intrusion to the perplexing uniformity of the mountain paths.

The accustomed cup of tea was handed round and sipped in silence, for the host did not seem to be a man of many words, and possibly conceived that his guest's rank hardly demanded a formal announcement of his own. A little surprised, however, it seemed, at the young man's composure, he presently laid his pipe aside, and delivered himself somewhat strangely, thus:—

"Washidzukami here has promised you a night's lodging, and you are welcome to it. But it is as well you should be taught at once, that one night here means all nights. This, as you perhaps know, is the mountain of Shidzugatake, and I am Matsuyama Raitaro; so you will easily understand that our circumstances forbid all careless confidences. We have an oath and a headsman, and between these two, you are at liberty to choose."

This Raitaro was a robber, of wide notoriety; his name was known in every province that could be seen from the summit of Migami⁽¹⁾, and few would pass the northern shores of Lake Biwa after sunset without a prayer to Mitsumine⁽²⁾. The young merchant had, it seemed, fallen in with a very evil chance, and the alternative proposed might well puzzle him unpleasantly, yet, strange to say, he was not one whit moved. His hand never shook, as he knocked the ashes from his pipe, nor did his voice falter in the least, as he replied:—

"I was not altogether unprepared for what you have said, Sir; your armoury there seemed to me too well stocked for hunting purposes alone. I thank you very much for your kind permission, and will avail myself of it, to choose the oath."

"Most men in your position would do the same," said Raitaro with a smile. "But let me tell you that, if you leave anything difficult to part from in the world down yonder," giving his hand a sweep in the direction of the white mists that were beginning to creep up from the surface of the lake to the tops of the pine woods, "you may find your life here a little irksome, for your novitiate I will promise you, be amply long enough to wean you from old attractions."

"It will bring me no grey hairs then," replied the young merchant. "I have found nothing in the plains that makes me prefer them to the hill tops, and whichever you elect will be equally agreeable. I only fear that you will find me a very useless addition to your band."

"In truth, a very proper spoken and hardy nerved young man," mused the chief, beginning to look with more interest at his visitor's comely face and strong fore-arm.

"As to your usefulness or otherwise, I can say nothing. No man fails entirely if he tries to succeed, but you are only a beginner now, and must take a beginner's part. If however, you deserve well, promotion will surely come, for we have no favouritism here, and plenty of vacancies, as you may suppose. For the present, your chief business will be to study fencing. Have you ever handled a stick?"

"Well, I have, once or twice, Sir. But I shall be very glad to take some lessons from such a teacher as you no doubt have here."

"Come along then, I will put you in his charge, and at the same time introduce you to your comrades. And I can tell you a man might well consent to be outlawed for half a dozen years, if it were only to become Nakaseko's pupil, for as a master of fence, he is simply peerless."

Saying this, the chief led the way through the outer room and across a wide court-yard, to a long low building, from within which, the sounds of stroke and parry, challenge and onset, were already issuing. Passing within, they found that the evening's fencing had not yet absolutely commenced, though a couple of lads were assailing each other pretty vigorously, on the dais of sand in the middle of the room. It was the robbers' habit to fence by lamp-light, for they seldom saw the sun shine on an adversary's features, and many a good wrist had failed to foil the thrusts learned in that dusky chamber. The feeble rush-

lights now flickered and flared on thirty strong men's faces, some scarred, some scatheless; some smooth, some wrinkled; but all more or less touched by that cloud that clings to the brow, when the heart is soiled. These thirty faces turned with much curiosity towards the chief and his companion, as they entered the room, for to most of them the presence of a stranger on the plateau of Shidzugatake was a novelty without parallel, and to the rest such an event recalled some painful memories. But Raitaro simply announced his companion as a recruit enlisted that evening, and presently to be enrolled with due formality, and then, followed by the young man, passed up the room to the corner where the fencing sticks and paraphernalia of the play were piled, and where, a giant in frame and fame, the fencing master stood.

To him the novice was presented, and received not very cordially; all teaching is irksome, and most so the teaching of fencing, for whatever mysteries of the art the veteran may unfold, he cannot inspire the spirit that nerves the wrist; he fashions the puppet, but fails in the breath. It was accordingly with some show of apology, that the master begged one of the youths who were already masked and gloved, to give the visitor a lesson, and desired the latter to select a stick and prepare for the bout.

The old rule that a quick return is better than a long parry is one of the last that a fencer really credits, and when the visitor, instead of selecting a long stick, chose one of the shortest in the rack, some curious looks were exchanged by the old hands.

A very short business was that first bout, for the visitor's opponent had scarcely time to assume the easy position of a confident victor, before the "pear-splitter" cut resounded on his helmet. Two or three others, who followed, shared the same fate in about the same time, and presently the whole school was in a buzz of excitement. All the robber band, and everybody pertaining to it, from the scullion to the gate-porter, came flocking in, and as victory after victory placed the new-comer, without pause or parley, before a fresh opponent, there seemed every chance that his arm must tire or his eye fail. But though he was soon *vis-a-vis* with the very grey-beards of the science, he delivered, to each and all unerringly, the same terrific cut in the very centre of the helmet, and since not only the grace and almost mechanical certainty of his action made it easy to forecast the result of each encounter, but also in the impetuosity of the moment, men forgot all order and method, the spectacle was presently seen of two or three fencers, gloved and caparisoned, struggling which should be the next to face the victor, even before the issue of the contest actually in progress was decided.

But now the attention of all was instinctively averted from the combat, to the corner where Nakaseko stood, looking wonderingly over the heads of his pupils and comrades. The master, though not a word was addressed to him, became immediately conscious of this mute appeal, and with little of his wonted coolness, began to unfasten his belt and harness himself for the trial. His minutest preparations were watched with breathless interest, for there was something so magical about these repeated defeats, that the spectators knew no longer where to look for the first signs of disaster.

As for Nakaseko himself, he felt that his eye began to be clouded by some curious sensation of uneasiness. Never, for twenty years, had he seen a trick of fence that was not as familiar to him as his wife's face, but that night, eight of his best pupils had succumbed to the same stroke, and yet he did not certainly know that its method was not still a mystery to him. "Was the stick passed once or twice outwards, or how was it manœuvred?" Men with such marvellous wrists and sinews do not travel the mountains for nothing, and the heart of the master burned, and his muscles stiffened, as he thought that the stranger, who was beating his pupils and laughing at his art, could not be anything but a spy; a spy whose signal might perhaps summon destruction to their quiet retreat in the hills, and give their heads to the gibbet. Nor was the master singular in this thought. The same idea had already suggested itself to several of the band, and a cry of eager encouragement rose from every lip as Nakaseko leaped into the ring.

His foot planted on the accustomed spot and his hand armed with the familiar single-stick, that momentary feeling of uneasiness passed away like a breath from the mas-

* (1) The highest mountain in the province of Omi. It is also known as Omi Fuji.

(2) A god who protects his votaries against thieves. His amulets with the figures of three wolves (his messengers) may often be seen over the lintels of shops, &c. stick?"

ter's heart, and with eyes of fire and wrists of steel, he dealt cut after cut, and thrust after thrust. But none found their way home. The visitor stood quietly on the defensive. Hitherto it had apparently been his object to come to terms with his opponents as quickly as possible, but now he paused, he parried, he retreated, and already cries of "yera! yera!" welcomed the master's victory. But it was only for a moment. Even the master's multifarious methods of attack had their limit, and presently the two figures were standing quiet in the middle of the arena, their crossed blades motionless, save for a little tremor telling of the taunted muscles that grasped them. Now it was the visitor's turn to attack. "Would he try the 'pear-splitter,' and would the master parry it?" The audience, breathless, pressed so close to the arena as almost to touch the combatants, but a small space sufficed such fencers. A shuffle, a flashing of sticks and a wild exulting cry. The "nashi-wari," was parried; the master knew the foil! But ere the echoes of that cry were faint, they were overtaken by a bitter voice, for the master was staggering back with the point of his adversary's stick thrust against his throat. This time the "pear-splitter" had been only a feint, for though given with a strength sufficient to convert it if successful into a fatal reality, the visitor's wrist had still a reserve of force that recovered his stick, and carrying it with the rapidity of lightning round his opponent's upraised hands, he had delivered the point full in the master's gorge.

A moment of silence succeeded that cry—a moment during which hot shame and anger flushed the brows of those thirty men, as they watched Nakaseko standing with bowed head and lowered sword—the next, all was tumult. Some who carried swords drew them, others seized the single-sticks and spears of the school and brandished them like real weapons, one grasped a brazier, another an armour stand, while not a few, running out, came back provided with large stones, but across all this diversity of method one terrible purpose pierced, the death of the stranger. Raitaro, however, springing to the fencing master's side, laid hold of him and almost lifted him behind the young merchant, while passing himself to the front, he wrenched a sword from one of the bandits and holding it high above his head, shouted with a voice that conquered the confusion:—

"Comrades, will you murder a man because he is a good swordsman? Think you that, if he were other than he pretends to be, he would have risked discovery by beating you all? Truly you are as excitable as women and children." Then turning to the young merchant, he said sternly:—"Young man, who are you and with what object have you come here? Answer me at once in the presence of all my comrades, but remember before you speak, that despite your strong arm and marvellous skill, nothing but the plain truth can save your life now."

The young merchant, at the first burst of the tumult, had untied his helmet, and dropping it on the ground beside his single stick, had folded his arms and watched the progress of the disturbance without moving from his place. Addressed, however, by Raitaro, he bowed his head slightly, and speaking so as to be heard by all present, answered:—

"My name is now Ishikawa Goyemon. When men knew me as Ishikawa Gorokichi, love and imprudence drove me to deeds that induced me to seek your company, but these things are my secrets, and you, who have your own, will no doubt respect them. Give me a trial, or if you mistrust me too much, you have your alternative," pointing to the drawn sword that Raitaro held.

But Raitaro, little wont to hear such words, did not immediately reply, and already low, angry murmurs had arisen here and there, when suddenly the fencing master stepped forward.

"Comrades," he said, "I have been with you twelve years and will be so, I hope, to the end. Let me be your warranty for this man. To kill such an adept would be a disgrace to the art we love, and while he is alive, I can only be content as his pupil. Let us make him our master of fence."

Then turning, he bowed low to Ishikawa, and begged to be taken as his first pupil. Raitaro himself followed, and with these examples before them, the others could not choose but imitate.

So Ishikawa, without any term of probation or novitiate, was at once elected to a position that all strong men respect, and most of all those who, like the bandits of Shidzugatake, stake their safety on the skill learned in the fencing school. Possessing preeminently all the elements needed for success under these conditions, he soon gained such an ascendancy over his comrades, that Raitaro very plainly saw his chieftainship drifting away from him, and having found five of his oldest accomplices, who agreed with him in thinking, that a result which could be so easily obviated by a spear's thrust was not to be deemed inevitable, these six chose a night in early winter, when there was less moon than cloud, and stole along, one by one, to a thicket at the end of the garden on which the new fencing master's room opened.

Their plan of action was that Raitaro should cut the bolt of the rain door, an art in which his skill was unequalled, while Iwai and Ichiku, the truest spearmen in the band, were to stand ready to transfix the fencing master, should he come at once to the door, as he certainly would did the noise disturb him; for this tacit tribute they paid to the man's bravery. Raitaro's art was not however exercised on that evening, for it seemed that neither bolt nor bar was wont to trouble the fencing master's hands at sunrise. The night wind was indeed for the most part excluded, but the one panel that received the bolt was lying undisturbed in the door-case. So the six men, crossing the veranda, opened the inner slides and entered the fencing master's room, so silently that they could hear one another breathe, and even the rats did not desist from their raids on the rice bag.

At the foot of the bed stood a low screen, and Ichiku, who reached it first, looking over, saw within five feet of his hand the white throat of his victim hardly touched by the feeble flicker of the night lamp. Keeping his eyes steadily fixed upon this happy chance, and baring his arm lest his long sleeve should catch in the carved frame of the screen, he slowly raised his spear till the point had well nigh passed the barrier before it, when, as if by magic, the beam of the lamp seemed to travel round and fix itself on another throat, some three or four yards distant.

This strange apparition for a moment numbered Ichiku's power of action, but soon recovering himself, he stole round towards the new beacon, and poised his spear so close to its mark that the breath of the sleeper was parted on its point. But now the light, creeping quietly back, was reflected from the throat at the foot of the screen as before, and Ichiku's heart was wrenched by a sudden pang of terror, for he seemed to be dealing with spirits, not men. The tone of his appalled voice, rather than the few words he whispered to his comrades, made them all sharers of his terror, and presently the whole six men found themselves standing in the garden, with faces and weapons turned towards the open door, as though they looked to see the fencing master with his unerring blade leap out on them.

But the aspect of things did not change, and no sound came from within; so that, after a time, they resolved to make another attempt, and Iwai having procured a lantern, they again mounted the veranda and peered into the dimly lighted room. There stood the screen as before, and the master's swords lay untouched in the alcove, so now almost persuaded that Ichiku's story was a delusion, they advanced stealthily but resolutely, Raitaro himself in front with the lantern.

Scarcely, however, had the chief crossed the threshold when his lamp was suddenly extinguished, not by any breath of air or drop of water, but by a quiet subsidence as though the flame had died, and Raitaro heard his five followers leap precipitately into the garden. Following them there, he upbraided them angrily, asking them whether a "Friar's lantern" and a bad wick were the measures of their courage, and whether they had come out with swords and spears to be the dupes of a vulgar sorcerer, till at last the six determined that, come what might, they would go in and cut to pieces every body found inside, were he man or devil. Still the old stealthy habit of their craft delayed them a moment on the threshold, and in that moment the room was suddenly illuminated, and there, half a dozen steps within, his arms crossed and a quiet smile upon his lips, the fencing master sat.

"Raitaro," said he, "you saved my life once, not indeed knowing how little store I then set by it. I am glad that you have given me this opportunity of in part repaying

you by preventing you from murdering your guest and teacher."

"Silken sayings," as the proverb tells "often choke their hearers." Raitaro and his comrades, confronted so suddenly and in such a condition by the man they had looked to kill, found few words to answer his courteous contempt, and busied themselves principally in trying to hide their now irksome weapons, so that Ishikawa at last fell to laughing at their plight, and asked them whether he should put out the lights again to give them opportunity of collecting themselves, or whether they would come in at once and learn the simple tricks that had baffled them.

Thus, instead of reasserting his chieftainship, the issue of that evening's enterprise was that Raitaro swore allegiance to one whom he could not but confess his master, and thenceforth, he and his comrades were not only initiated into the mysteries of the art Ishikawa had studied under Momiji Sandayu, but also educated in the tenets of a creed, that fell but little short of dignifying the robber's profession. For Ishikawa taught that the judgment of men is based on the form, not the fact of crime. "Injustice and avarice," he said, "are the licensed robbers of life, just as we are the proscribed ones. Let us then turn our hands only against our more polished, though not less profligate brethren, never diverting the bread that fills the hands of toil, not disturbing the sleep that honest labour earns, but if in any storehouse lies a hoard of rice hidden from the need of the Japanese army, or in any treasury a chest of gold increased by extortion and undiminished by charity, then if we take, we do but utilize."

In the summer of the next year he broke up the settlement on Mount Shidzugatake, and desired his followers to go out and seek employment in the households of nobles or wealthy merchants, taking, for the nonce, morality as their principle, and devoting themselves entirely to collecting information for the guidance of future enterprises.

(To be continued in our next.)

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. I. Can any experienced woodman, or analytical chemist, favour the community with a disquisition upon charcoal? Is there any method of getting rid of the free carbonic acid gas which rises from it—before burning, or of any portion of the same? Do different woods give off different volumes of vapour, and if so, which is the safest to use in a bath room? (Unanswered.)

J. T.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such: I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan. (In process of answer.)

B. H.

Qy. 3. Can any of your readers give me information respecting the comparative value of money in Japan five centuries ago, and at present?

Were the actual incomes of the Nobles larger or smaller then, as represented by their official rent-rolls, and have they now, as a matter of fact, more money to spend on themselves, than they had in old times?

N. or M.

Qy. 4. To what amount of restraint was a Noble subjected by the supervision of the 'karo.' Could he, for example, go out alone, or with only a favourite attendant?

N. or M.

Qy. 5. Dwellings on the Bluff are much more susceptible to the motion of the earthquake wave, than those on the Settlement. Why so? is the object of this Query. One would think that, considering the magnitude of the causes at work, the few feet of elevation of the Bluff from the Settlement would make no difference at all in the perceptible motion of an earthquake; for the same reason it would appear childish to suggest that the weight of the

various constructions on the Settlement would have the effect of steadying, as it were, the earth's crust; however it is a fruitful matter for conjecture, though by no means a pleasant one.

JISHIN.

NOTES.

ANSWER TO B. H.'s QUERY No. 2.

MARRIAGE CEREMONIES.

N. I. The lower orders of the Japanese employ some married couple to make matches for their sons, and these agents are called *nakodo*, or go-betweens. Betrothal sometimes takes place in the infancy or childhood of parties, but is very often deferred till they are old enough to wish to have some voice in the matter themselves, which, however, is denied them if they have parents living. When, by reason of the death of his parents, a young man is left free to manage the matter in his own behalf, he chooses a pair of go-betweens from among his friends or acquaintance, and through them makes inquiries for a suitable help-mate, and when they report the discovery of one, he sends then to solicit her hand of her parents.

If the proposal suits her parents, the bargain is made, and by their connivance a meeting is arranged to take place between the young people at some tea house, unless they already know each other by sight, where the betrothed can only cast sly glances at each other, but are permitted to hold no conversation, as that in the present stage of affairs would be a breach of Japanese etiquette.

In arranging matter for the wedding, fixing the day for it, &c., other go-betweens are employed, whose office expires only when the two are made one. First, the young bridegroom sends the go-betweens with the presents to the parents of the bride elect. These may consist of a variety of things, varying according to the taste or ability of the bridegroom, or his parents, provided only that certain things are included in the number; as, for instance, some edible seaweed, and *noshi*, or strips of dried and powdered Awabi. The preparation of the latter is made chiefly in the department of Isc. If *noshi* cannot be obtained, a kind of dried fish will answer the purpose. But, whether the presents be few or many, the bridegroom must send a written list of the articles along with them, for which a specified form is furnished in the Japanese works on the subject.

These presents being received, and the wedding day being fixed between the bride's parents and the go-betweens, nothing remains to be done but to await the appointed time. Meanwhile the bride and her family are occupied in preparing the numerous presents to be made by them to the parents and relatives of the bridegroom on the night of the wedding.

In the evening of the day set for the nuptial ceremony, the bride, dressed throughout in white, (the colour of mourning in Japan) is escorted in the *kago* or *norimon* (palanquin) by her parents and invited relatives to the house of the bridegroom. At the present day she is met in the entrance of the house by certain females employed to receive her, called *machi-joo-roo*, who conduct her into a separate apartment where she takes a little rest. It should be stated that she left the father's house having her head covered with a *wata-booshi*, a cap made of floss silk, which entirely conceals her head and face from view, and is not removed until she has become a wife. When a sufficient time has elapsed for the bride to refresh herself, both she and the bridegroom proceed separately to the best room, where the young man seats himself at one end of the *tokonoma*, a sort of open closet or recess in the wall opposite to the entrance, which is considered the most honourable place in the Japanese house. And the young lady takes her seat at the opposite end of the *tokonoma*. The go-betweens also sit down, the male by the bridegroom, and the female by the bride. Two other attendants, male and female, usually young persons, each bearing a vessel with a long handle, used as a receptacle for saké, are likewise present to wait upon the bride and bridegroom and fill their cups. The long handle flasks have a paper butterfly fastened to each; a large and a small one to represent a male and a female butterfly. The attendants who bear them are therefore called by these names, and the idea expressed by the symbol, is, that, as butterflies always go in pairs, so the husband and wife

should accompany each other through life with a like constancy.

Between the bride and groom is placed a tray bearing three lacquered cups, one upon another, the smallest at the top. The two butterflies pour a little saké from both their flasks into the uppermost cup, while the bridegroom holds it to be filled, grasping it with both hands. He then said the wine three times, in a very slow formal manner, and passes the cup to the bride, who takes it in her hands and takes three similar sips under cover of her veil, when she hands the cup to the female butterfly, who sets it aside. The second cup, and the third, are filled and emptied in like manner, so that each party drinks nine times. Hence this ceremony is called *san-san-kudo*, and forms the most important part of the nuptial rites, for it makes the parties husband and wife. While this drinking is going on, one or two male singers are seated behind the screen in the same room, chanting songs of congratulation to the happy pair. They are now married, and the bride and groom proceed to another room, where they pay their respects to her parents, by drinking saké together: nominally but not really going through the *san-san-kudo* again. After that they are conducted to another room where the bride removes her veil, and exchanges her white dress for one of bright and gay colours; and the groom puts on the *kami-shimo*, or Japanese full dress, distinguished by the wing-like shoulder pieces, and full trousers; and then again they drink to each other three times three cups, in mutual congratulation at the happy change that has come over them, as indicated by their change of dress.

This being done, there follows a feast to all in the house, who assemble in one room, and regale themselves with the fare that is set before them; and having kept up the festivities till about the dawn of day, the wedding party breaks up. Three days after, the bride usually pays a visit to her own parents, when another entertainment is made, to which the relatives of the family are invited.

Henceforth the married woman is regarded as having been absorbed, as it were, into the family of her husband and to have sundered her relationship to her father's house. Her duty to her father-in-law and mother-in-law supersedes all the obligations of filial piety.

The common people, in their matrimonial rites, endeavour to ape as far as possible, their superiors, the daimios and other great people of the land. If required to do so, we may on another occasion, describe the nuptial ceremonies of the latter. J. T.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGNERS.

(From the *Hochi Shimbun*.)

THE Editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* (No. 1813) publishes a draught of a proposed method of jurisdiction over foreigners, by a Mr. Umi-uchi, of which the following is a brief summary:—

"That as the customs, laws, civilization and religion of Japan are unlike those of the countries of Europe and America; it is impossible to bring natives of these countries under our Common Law. In Japan, up to the present time, progress in legislation has not extended to Equity, and therefore, in our jurisdiction, it would be best to adopt their system of Equity jurisprudence, and, for its administration, a Mixed Court would probably answer the purpose." The Editor, in a note to this article, states that he had already

"maintained the advantage of establishing Courts of Equity, as was done at Rome in ancient time, although Mr. Umi-uchi's opinion differs from his, on one or two points."

And again, in the issue No. 1819, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes another article by the same author on Treaty Revision, the arguments in which are almost identical with those of the article above quoted.

Now, what are these Laws of Equity referred to by the Editor? From what he says of the ancient Laws of Rome, it would appear that they resemble the 'jus gentium' which was framed by Roman lawyers, unwilling to extend to foreigners the special privileges of the Roman citizen, and yet anxious that all foreigners should have some

Common Law to be adopted and obeyed by all. If it was really so, I would then at once say, that the impracticability of applying the principle to foreigners resident in Japan, is precisely as great as that of applying the principles of European International Law to Oriental countries. Suppose a Law to be a medicine, and a Nation a sickness; to discuss the adoption of a Law without considering the difference of nationality, would be as foolish as to apply a remedy without knowing anything of the nature of the disease.

Does the Editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* consider the relations between ourselves and those we call 'foreigners'—such as English, French and Americans, to be the same as those existing between the Romans, and those they called 'foreigners'—such as Samnites, Tuscans, Latins, Campanians, Carthaginians, and Greeks? If so, I should compare him to one who considered diseases of the legs to be the same as diseases of the eyes.

In ancient times, before Rome had united all these countries under her sole rule, though the countries in Italy were not only hundreds in number, but varied in size, and strength, and also at times in their rise, fall, separation and union, had towns and villages, and formed themselves like independent countries; Rome was then only one of these, and the people in these countries came to, and went from, one another, starting from different countries, taking different roads; some starting from Greece, others from Ionia; some by land, and some by sea.

Thus, though there were little differences in their languages, customs, religions, laws and civilization, they were almost all of the Indo-European race, and from the frequency of the visits they interchanged, it is not wrong to say that there was no great difference between them. Even the Carthaginians on the other side of the sea were of the same extraction.

Thus, the laws of one country being well regulated, it was possible, by means of them, to adjudicate for the people of the others. For the same reason, the customs, laws, religion, and civilization of European countries, being similar, and their intercourse frequent, the laws of one are competent to adjudicate for the people of all.

Grotius and others observing the state of Europe in the 16th century, and noticing this resemblance between it and that of ancient Italy, believed that the 'jus gentium' would be the only law generally applicable at the time, and therefore took it as a model in framing their 'International Law.' Thus the 'jus gentium' of Rome was framed for the use of a number of peoples in adjacent countries, with common habits. But the Editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* proposes to frame a new Treaty, bringing under a common law, ourselves, Europeans, and Americans, whose customs, laws, religion, and civilization are all widely different. This is indeed 'to cure a sickness peculiar to woman with a medicine only useful for diseases of men.' I therefore hold, that the 'jus gentium' is as inapplicable to foreigners resident in our country as European International Law is to Oriental peoples.

It may be argued that the 'Law of Equity' as described by Mr. Umi-uchi does not mean the 'jus gentium' of Rome; but that it is rather an union of the practice of the Roman prætors and the equity judgments of English Lord Chancellors, and neither the unwritten nor statute law. And that, taking natural reason, (common sense?) and personal rights as his foundations for his judgment, a judge, so deciding may of special right, make his decisions law—and that so, without reference to any foreign system of jurisprudence, Japanese judges should adjudge cases in which foreigners are concerned, according to what they consider common sense, and with due regard to individual rights—and that this is a matter of urgent present necessity.

I would reply that this is so, indeed, but that it does not hide the error of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. What I maintain is that the 'jus gentium' is not practicable in our country, and that it is not possible at present fairly to adjudge foreigners, according to what Japanese judges consider to be common sense or individual rights, without reference to home or foreign statute law. Suppose the attempt made, in defiance of common sense, what would happen? Suppose for instance, our Emperor, taking in hand the question of judging foreigners according to the law of equity, were to say to the Foreign Ministers: "Formerly, you denied me jurisdiction over foreigners, on account of our laws not having progressed so far towards perfection as yours."

"I therefore propose to order my judges to adjudicate for foreigners in accordance with the principles of natural reason and personal rights, without reference to any statute law, native or foreign. I have therefore to request you to restore to me at once the right of jurisdiction."

What would foreign ministers reply to this? According to my thinking, they would probably say:—"what are these principles of natural reason and personal right of which you speak? We hear that, ten years ago, a samurai was permitted to kill any one who disobeyed him,* and the expenses of Government officials were taken from the people without repayment, and on the least offence, the property of the people was confiscated. Now you have revised your laws in these respects, for which we are not a little obliged to you, but to dispense with statute laws and to judge us by the shapeless principles of 'natural reason' &c. at this we should feel very uneasy. The establishment of law always succeeds to that of civilization after a certain interval, and the existence of the one is no guarantee for that of the other. We do not feel safe under your statute law, and how can we be satisfied with what your judges may consider to be equity &c. &c."

Such, indeed, is my individual opinion: how much more would it be that of old and experienced diplomatists?

Again, it may be argued that Mr. Umi-uchi does not propose to adopt simply the 'shapeless principles of equity' &c. without reference to home and foreign law, and that the Roman 'jus gentium' and the edicts of the prætors are not such a mass of 'shapeless principles':—the former being a system of jurisprudence formed on the study of home and foreign customs; and the latter, a system which reformed ancient law by abolishing useless matter, and improved it by additions where it was defective; and that moreover the English equity judgments are mostly extracted from Roman and canon laws, and not simply founded on the 'shapeless principles' of which we have spoken.

Should Mr. Umi-uchi hold this latter opinion, there is no excuse for his taking such ground. For he said, in his first article, that

"A law framed in imitation of another could easily be revised . . . and that it is beyond the power of ordinary students to fathom and detect the precise points which lie at the foundation of grand general laws—and that this is the reason that the progress of equity Law is so slow."

From this it would appear that Mr. U—thinks, that borrowed laws, not being the production of our own country, would be bad; and that it would be better to let our judges discover for themselves the grand general principles of law, and judge foreigners in accordance with these. But if he now advocates codifying laws for foreigners in accordance with the example given by great English lawyers, then he cannot surely deny that his former opinion is contrary to his latter!

And what does the writer in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* think about the civilization of the several countries of Italy in ancient times? The state of things then was very unsettled, the laws of those countries were then incomplete, and no accurate difference was made between law and natural rights and, certainly, there could have been no distinction between tradition and equity: but natural principles and established law must have been always intermixed. Thus it was not possible to put in practice the 'jus gentium.' But now, on the contrary, in modern times, the French have a complete (codified) law—the English and Americans also: and other States, though having no codes, yet have laws suitable to the present degree of their civilization; and so, our people—who are superior to the peoples of ancient Italy in their intelligence and acquirements, well distinguishing the principles, and many understanding the details, of home and foreign law—might easily adopt extracts from the laws of foreign countries. And is it not evident how Rome gradually united those countries under one administration? At first, Rome was on an

equality with them, but, gradually increasing in strength, and making herself superior to them, she finally brought them under subjection to herself. Thus these countries were, as regards Rome, as powerless as sheep against a wolf; which is the same case, I regret to say, with ourselves, as against the countries of Europe and America. Now it is easy for a wolf to exercise jurisdiction over sheep, but how could a sheep judge the wolves? And although, for instance, our Government might think it well to adjudicate for foreigners by means of a code of mixed home and foreign laws; foreigners would certainly say: 'we fear and dislike Japanese law, how can we reasonably be expected not to fear and dislike such laws administered by Japanese judges.'

It may be objected that Mr. Umi-uchi does not propose to combine at haphazard the laws of Japan and foreign nations; but to carefully select from them what is good—and reject what is bad, guided by natural reason (common sense) and the law of personal right. In reply, I would object 'how very unsettled are the data of this discussion! In making a journey, surely the destination should first be fixed, before the road to it is selected, and the length and description of that road should be considered. For instance, a man having decided to go to London, would do well to consider the length and description of the two routes, before he decided to go via Scotland, or via the Cape of Good Hope. The writer in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, arguing about adopting, or not adopting the Law of Equity as the foundation for the proposed jurisdiction over foreigners, says: 'having almost decided, which laws are to be adopted.' This is purely 'begging the question.' If it were already decided which laws were to be adopted—this would be codifying the laws—and then what becomes of the Law of Equity? The idea of Equity, in fact, is always undergoing change in this writer's mind, and his confusion is not unlike that of a man who should examine the length and description of the road through Scotland, or through the Cape of Good Hope, before he had determined whether he wanted to go to London, or to Rome:—or of a physician who is equally ignorant of the nature of a disease, and of the properties of the medicine he proposes to apply.

In conclusion, the question then presents itself:—"what ought we to do?" There is only one way—to select, for the cure of the disease, a medicine suitable for it. It is certain that International Law is impracticable among Oriental Nations; because their customs, laws, religions, and civilizations are so different, each from the other. Consequently, it is impossible to employ judges of one nation only to adjudicate amongst disputants so differing in customs, &c. The only plan, therefore, is a Mixed Court of Judges selected from the nationalities of the various suitors, judges conversant with the laws of their respective States. This is the only proper and safe method to be adopted in the adjustment of disputes between subjects of Eastern and Western nations at present . . . and putting aside for the time the question whether now or hereafter is the suitable time for their establishment, there is no doubt that when it shall become necessary to establish a Court to judge between natives and foreigners, there is no doubt that a Mixed Court is the best and proper tribunal to establish.

[The Editor of the *Hochi Shimbun*, in publishing the above remarkable article, says that though he does not agree with the writer, that the communication enunciating doctrines and emanating from a source for which he has a high respect, he gives publication to it without 'responsibility for the sentiments of his correspondent.']

EXTRACTS.

THE CHEFOO CONVENTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Oriental finance in general is not the most promising field for amateur experiment, and the fiscal system of China in particular has puzzled all who have ever tried to master it. But the subject presents no difficulties whatever to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Westminster, Cardinal Manning, Mr. Spurgeon, the two Messrs. Morley, a group of "Professors," Ritualists, and Quakers, missionaries and Comtists, with some waifs and strays of

* *Legacy of Iyeyas*. Chap. XLV. "Samurais are the masters of the four classes. Agriculturists, artisans, and merchants may not behave in a rude manner towards Samurais. The term for a rude man is 'other than expected fellow' and a Samurai is not to be interfered with in cutting down a fellow who has behaved to him in a manner other than is expected."

"Samurais are grouped into direct retainers, secondary retainers, and nobles and retainers of high and low grade; but the same line of conduct is equally allowable to them all towards an 'other than expected fellow.'" [Ed. J. T.]

the mercantile community, who have lately memorialized the Government on the subject of the Chefoo Convention. If these distinguished persons would try the experiment of united action in some simple matter within the sphere of their own observation, such as the endowment of a bishopric or the reform of a school, they might perhaps be led to suspect that their unanimity on a question which concerns the social life of a singularly little-understood people on the other side of the globe must be the result of inspiration rather than of knowledge.

The memorialists urge the Government to ratify forthwith the Convention concluded in September, 1876, between the British and Chinese representatives, on the ground that the Chinese have already fulfilled their part of the agreement. One of the memorialists, Sir E. Fry, has, however, shown that this argument will not hold water. The memorialists complain that the Chinese Government cannot now go back to the *status quo ante*, the meaning of which is this:—A treacherous attack by Chinese soldiers was made on a British exploring party travelling under the safe conduct of the Chinese Government, and Mr. Margary, a promising young officer, was barbarously murdered. If Sir T. Wade is to be believed, this piece of treachery was deliberately planned, not only the Provincial Government of Yunnan, but the Imperial Government of China being parties to it. The reparation granted for this outrage by the Chefoo agreement was certainly of such a kind that, once given, it cannot conveniently be withdrawn—at least not entire. One element in it was a letter from the Chinese Government to the Queen expressing regret at the sad occurrence, and the withdrawal of such a letter would certainly be open to a peculiar construction. The reparation further included the promulgation of a decree enjoining on all Chinese officials the duty of henceforth observing existing Treaties in favour of foreign travellers in China. It is difficult to see what injury the Chinese Government have sustained through the issue of this decree, the withdrawal of which would also be a little awkward. There was, moreover, the sum of £55,000 paid by the Chinese to cover the expense of the exploring expedition, Mr. Grosvenor's mission, various unsettled commercial claims, and a compensation to Mr. Margary's family. How the Minister of the richest country in the world should have been so eager to swallow this miserable bait is not the least incomprehensible part of a mysterious affair. An ordinary accident on a railway will cost the company more than the Chinese Empire is called upon to pay by way of "indemnity" for one of grossest outrages ever committed by one nation against another. The Chinese should certainly be allowed to take back this blood-money if they please. Nor need the re-closing of the new ports present any insuperable difficulty if such a step be required by the Chinese in order to restore the *status quo*.

Our memorialists, however, take the view that no reparation at all was due for the Yunnan outrage, for they say, in effect, that England is in the wrong to accept any, unless she agrees to buy and pay for it separately by means of important commercial concessions.

It appears clear, however, that the Chefoo Convention in their eyes resolves itself into one clause, that relating to the duty on imported opium. The memorialists demand that the Chinese Government shall not only be permitted to place, but assisted in placing a protective duty on imported opium. Of course, the effect of a protective duty is just the same on opium as on any other commodity; it compels the consumer to pay a high price for an inferior article. The already expensive cultivation of the poppy in China will be further stimulated by the increased price—a doubtful benefit to the Chinese people, who, whatever their physiological relations to opium, undoubtedly spend too much of their earnings on the narcotic.

But the operation of the opium clause in the Convention is more far-reaching than some of the memorialists are probably aware. It is tolerably well known that the revenue system of China is wholly barbarous, the essential feature of it being the power of irresponsible taxation exercised by the officials all over the empire. Officers with practically no pay are put over populous districts to make all they can out of their opportunities. Their career is watched with a kindly interest by their superiors, even by those in the highest places, who look eventually to share their good fortune. It is this canker which reduces the richest country in the world to the condition of the very poorest coun-

try for all effective purposes. The Opium Clause in the Convention will embalm this very rottenness of Chinese finance, and place it more than ever beyond the hope of remedy, until the yoke of the present Tartar Government is thrown off by an uprising of the people. The mandarins have been taxing opium at their pleasure all along, but the new agreement stipulates that the British Government shall henceforth supply the machinery for collecting by Chinese from Chinese an unlimited amount of duty, the local authorities being left to decide "according to the circumstances of each," what the amount shall be. For the British Government to intermeddle between the Chinese tax-gatherers and the Chinese tax-prayers, to take the side of the oppressor and to undertake an obligation to which no limit is assigned, would be attended with inconveniences of the gravest kind. Yet it is to force on this unnatural state of things, and no other, that the fussy philanthropy of England has been set in motion.

The signatories of the memorial of course thought that they were somehow or other striking a blow against opium-smoking, because the memorial was fathered by a society which has been got up, according to a speaker at Sir E. Fry's lecture, "to put an end to opium-smoking in China." But in truth the consumption of opium in China can only be associated with the ratification of the Chefoo Convention by a process of reasoning suited to that peculiar cerebral condition which refuses to see through a straight tube, but requires it to be bent. It is this:—At present Indian imported and Chinese grown opium compete in the Chinese markets on fairly equal terms. The Chinese Government desire to stop the growth and the use of opium in their country. The first step in this operation is to levy protective, to be followed by prohibitive, duties on imported opium, whereby an enormous stimulus will be given to the cultivation of the indigenous plant. The Chinese Government has never been able to prevent the cultivation of the poppy; but when the trade in foreign opium has been killed, and the area of poppy cultivation in China has vastly increased, then, it is contended, it will be quite easy for the Government to step forth and crush the growth and the use of opium with one blow. This is the kind of pabulum which is thought good enough for the persons who have undertaken no less a task than that of reforming the domestic and social habits of the oldest and most populous nation in the world. I am, Sir, yours, &c., KITAI.

BORN TO GREATNESS.

(By JAMES PAYN.)

THE tale of the drawing room, which has left the strongest impression on me, arose from a conversation about servants, a subject which is very popular there. Yes, indeed, if you may imagine that religion and politics are discoursed of on the first-floor during your absence, you are excessively mistaken. Nor is one word of medical science, properly so called, ever uttered there. Women talk of their children's ailments. But I am digressing. With elderly ladies, servants is the topic. They sail into the drawing-room—the old ones—and at once make for the ottoman, which affords ample room for their magnificent proportions and skirts, and at once begin to compare notes together about their domestics; while the young (about whom I may have to speak at another time) make little coteries of their own, consisting but generally of two each, their object being to exchange "confidences," some genuine, most of them fictitious, one or two—there has always been, as far as my experience goes, at least one of their class—one or two approach the table to examine the books, or any scientific instruments, such as the microscope, which may happen to lie there; but these intelligent personages are unpopular. "We are afraid we are not clever enough for you," is the remark with which they are greeted by their young friends, should they be so unwise as to make advances to them. But I am again digressing. I know my own faults, you see; crossing my postscripts; italics; digression. Where was I? For each of the confidential couples the lady of the house has a good-natured word, and a piece of good advice for the student: "Wearing out your brain, as usual, my dear Miss. Bluestocking. Why don't you let it rest?" And then she gravitates towards the ottoman, where the Great Topic is already being discussed.

"I am sure I don't know what we shall do for servants next," says Number One; "They are all getting so high and mighty."

"This notion of educating every body is destruction," says Number Two. "It makes them all dissatisfied with their places."

"With that position in life," says the rector's wife, with an air of the pulpit, "in which Providence has placed them."

"Just so; and then they are so ignorant!" says Number Three.

"Most shockingly ignorant," is the unanimous reply, except from the hostess, who with a dim notion that it is her place to prevent too great inconsistencies of statement, remarks, "Ignorant or opinionated, one or the other."

"You may say what you like," says Number Four, "but what lies at the bottom of it all is those fly-away caps. They are always setting them at somebody."

"Oh as to that, you know," says Number One, sinking her voice, and looking round to see that the young ladies are duly engaged with their confidences or their microscope, "there is a most shocking story afloat about poor Mr. Methusaleh and —"

Here all the heads on the ottoman approach one another so closely that a collection of birds and foliage, with a turban or two, like nests, is formed, and the remainder of the shocking story is related in a whisper.

"Well, I never!" "You don't say so!" "There is no fool like an old fool!" are the observations with which the news of Mr. Methusaleh's approaching "marriage beneath him" is received.

"I have only known one case of that description ever turn out well," observes a voice which has hitherto been unheard. It proceeds from Miss Flutter, a country cousin of the hostess, a lively, dapper little woman, who may be any age from thirty-five to fifty. "The exception only proves the rule, you know," adds she, apologetically; "but I have known an instance where such a match proved a success."

The other ladies turn inquiringly towards the hostess. Is her cousin (whom they have understood to be but a poor relation) to be credited? One of them shakes her head (with an ostrich feather on it) and smiles satirically, in token that she will not believe such an outrage on common sense, although the woman that should narrate it had ten thousand a year.

"I have often heard Cousin Jane tell the story," says the hostess, prudently; and it is certainly a very curious one.

"I should like to hear it," says Lady Stalkingham, the only titled person present, and whose wish is law. Whereupon followed Cousin Jane's story:—

"At Bath, where I used to live, good servants were as hard to procure as they are here in London. When you did happen to get one, you called her a 'perfect treasure,' and flouted her in your friend's faces as a model of what their servants ought to be, till in time she grew to be your mistress, and no servant at all. When you got a bad one, you put up with her, for fear that in the exchange you might chance to get a worse. My own position was singularly unfortunate in this respect, since most of my neighbours kept a footman, and I had not even a page-boy; and you all know what an objection young persons in service have to coming to a place where there is no gentleman's society. Under these unpleasant circumstances, I once found myself for six weeks without a parlour-maid. It is a more difficult situation to get filled than my cousin here, with her butler and footman, has any idea of; for a young woman must have strength to bring up the dinner tray from the kitchen, and dexterity to lay the cloth and wait, and a good address when answering the door. I once lost my best China dinner-service (all but the butter-boat) through a slip on the stairs, and my best friend through a slap on the face, which Matilda Jane, being in liquor, administered to her in the hall. After which it was, that the interregnum of which I have spoken took place. I really didn't dare advertise for another parlour-maid, lest I should get that dreadful young woman's counterpart, but made my want known to my acquaintances, and waited till I should hear of some one eligible through them. And at last I did so. The husband of an old school friend of mine being appointed to a colonial bishopric, she wrote to me to say that their establishment in England was to be broken up and that one of the pieces was a 'perfect treasure' of a parlour-maid. She had tried to prevail upon the girl to accompany her to the Caribbean Islands, which were situated in her husband's See; but Emily had heard some foolish stories about cannibalism, and preferred to remain in England, for which one could hardly blame her. 'I have no fault whatever to find with Emily Seton' wrote my friend, except that she is absurdly afraid of being like Hood's School-fellow, 'scraped to death with oyster-shells among the Caribbees.' 'My friend's husband was afterwards killed and eaten, and the whole family 'potted,' by the bye, though that is neither here nor there, and I only mention it as an incidental proof of Emily's sagacity."

Let me attempt to describe to you that admirable young woman. She had beautiful brown hair, always kept in perfect order, but without the least attempt to imitate her betters by the addition of frisettes or chignons; her eyes were brown also, and were soft and pleasing; her features, though far from regular, were well shaped; and her expression bright and intelligent. Her dress,

which would, of course, have been the index of her character, told nothing, because she was in mourning.

"I am afraid you have been in trouble, Emily Seton," said I at our first meeting.

"Yes, madam, I have had the misfortune to lose a friend," replied she.

"And I asked no more questions about it. By her making use of the word 'friend,' I naturally understood her to mean her lover, and, though I pitied her, poor soul, I could not help congratulating myself on the circumstance; for when such a misfortune happens, one is generally certain of retaining even a good looking young person's services—so far, that is, as mankind are concerned—for six months or so at least. In these days one can scarcely hope for more. However, Emily remained with me much longer than that, and never once put off her mourning, whether because black wears well, or because she knew that it became her, you shall judge for yourselves when you have heard all.

"To all my questions she gave the most satisfactory replies, and I was about to signify that our interview was at an end, when, with a little hesitation, she observed. 'By the bye, madam, I suppose Mrs. Quiverfull gave you to understand about my hour to myself?'

'Your hour to yourself? What do you mean, my good girl? Mrs. Quiverfull never said a word about it!'

She always allowed it to me, ma'am: one hour, in the middle of the day—or at all events by daylight—to myself; that is absolutely indispensable.'

"I never heard of such a singular proposition, Emily Seton," was my reply. 'You will have your Sunday out, of course.'

"I don't care at all about that, ma'am, thank you," interrupted she. 'I don't wish to go out on Sundays; but one hour to myself every day is what I must have.'

"Oh, I see," thought I; 'this is a Methodist. She won't go out on Sunday, which is a self-abnegation I have never known in one of her class; and she wants an hour a day for prayer and meditation. She must, indeed, be a perfect treasure, for Mrs. Quiverfull, with her High-Church notions, to have kept such a girl in her service.'

"Well, Emily Seton" said I, 'this is an arrangement which I had not expected, and will certainly be very inconvenient, but nevertheless you shall have your hour.'

"As I had done without a parlour-maid for the whole day for six weeks, I could surely do without one, was my reflexion, for a single hour; and then she was in all other respects so exceedingly suitable. My only fear was that, being a Methodist, I should not keep her for six months certain, because of the men. I need not however have disturbed myself with any such apprehensions. So far from encouraging the other sex, she kept them at a great distance, and when I gave my little dinner-parties—which, after six weeks of inaction, during which my friends had been very hospitable, it became necessary for me to do—she steadily refused all offers of male assistance at the table. She begged me neither to ask my guests to bring their footmen nor to hire our greengrocer, though a very handy man, and whom you could never know from a regular butler except for his fingers coming through his Berlin gloves. She could wait on half a dozen persons well, she said, and with the housemaid's help—whom, by the bye, she taught so excellently that, after Emily's departure, she took her place—even on eight, which was the largest number that my dining-room would accommodate. No 'cousin' ever called to see Emily Seton; nor did she ever ask for a day's holiday, nor for those few hours in the evening to visit an aged relative, with which touching request we are all of us so familiar. She was a favourite in the household, though she kept herself to herself in an unusual degree: she never gossiped; never retailed below-stairs the conversation she had heard above, and this was the more singular since not a word and scarcely a look escaped her. Her eyes, her ears, were everywhere, so that no one had to ask for anything to eat or drink. As to talk upon general subjects, I knew that nothing was lost upon her, because she would guide herself both with respect to myself and others by any hint let fall respecting attendance or service, though by no means addressed to or even intended for herself. In a word, then, Emily Seton would have been just perfection as a parlour-maid, but for that inconvenient stipulation of hers—the one hour to herself, from three to four—which she never waived, no matter what the stress upon her services, nor intermitted for a single day. At three precisely, immediately after the kitchen dinner, she went up to her own room and locked the door, and at four precisely she came out again and resumed her business as if there had been no intermission of it. Visitors might call in the meanwhile, or her bell might be rung by some guest staying in the house, but they did not in the least disturb this irrevocable arrangement. She could not be a Methodist, because she went to church, did not mind bringing up hot dinners on a Sunday, and took in one of Mr. Dickens's novels (as I was told by the cook) in monthly parts;

and what she did with herself during that mysterious hour was a question that was *wearing my heart out*.

"I should rather think it was," said all the ladies on the ottoman but two.

"I think I can guess what was her occupation," said Lady Stalkingham, severely. "Your piece of perfection kept a bottle of spirits in her bedroom."

"Lor' bless you, my lady, nothing of the kind; my Emily hated the very smell of them."

"No, no; it was dress," said the rector's wife, nodding. "Your perfect treasure was doing her beautiful hair, and arranging her spotless cuffs and collar against the time when her 'Mr. Right' should come."

"Both wrong," answered Miss Flutter, curtly, a little put out, I think, by these commonplace elucidations of a mystery which had baffled her for so many months; "you would never guess it if you guessed from now till doomsday. The girl was under my own roof, remember—under my own eye—and all the household were equally curious to get at her secret. Drink and dress, of course, occurred to us, but each of those would have had its results; she was as grave and sober after her retirement as before, and there was not the least alteration in her attire."

"For my part, I began to think the poor girl was a poetess, or something queer of that sort; but when I taxed her with writing verses she only replied, with her quiet smile, 'Indeed, ma'am, I wish I could,' which, although not a sensible rejoinder, was so far satisfactory, that it showed she didn't."

"Well, ladies, I don't mind owing to you since we are all of the same sex here, that my excessive curiosity at last got the better of my feelings as a gentlewoman. I was resolved at all hazards to get at the bottom of this mystery, and —"

"You looked through the key-hole of course!" exclaimed Lady Stalkingham, greatly excited.

I tried to look through the key-hole, your ladyship, but she had stopped it up. I listened outside the door, and heard voices talking."

"Ah, that was it, was it?" said the rector's wife. Well, to tell you the truth, I suspected it from the first."

"But it was nothing of the kind, madam," continued Miss Flutter, drily. "Emily Seton was incapable of an impropriety, and both the voices were her own. Unhappily from the same cause that prevented my seeing what she was at, I was unable to catch what she said, and my curiosity was whetted to such a pitch that I determined on a course of action which I blush to relate. There was a cupboard in the room—"

"And you hid there!" ejaculated the rector's wife. Well, it was very natural."

"It was absolutely necessary, madam; if I had not done so I should have had brain fever. Yes; I went softly upstairs to the attics at two-forty-five, and hid myself in Emily's cupboard, and at three o'clock she came into her room as usual and locked the door."

"By that time I was thoroughly ashamed of myself. If she had opened the cupboard she might, I am sure, have knocked me down with a feather, and I felt that I deserved to be knocked down with something much harder. But still, since I was there, it was no use to shut my eyes; and I stared through a crack in the panel at the proceedings I am about to relate, as hard as I could stare."

"In the first place she took down her bonnet and shawl, and put them on before the looking-glass with the greatest care. Then she drew on her gloves, and took up a parasol and a little church-service I had given her, and began to walk slowly round the room. Of course, I then thought she was mad—some sort of religious fanatic, that always prayed with a bonnet and shawl on—and you may conceive my terror when she knocked at the cupboard door with her parasol, and inquired whether I was at home there. Yes: she asked, just as a lady asks of a footman, 'Is Miss Flutter at home?' and I felt my heart in my mouth, and my brains nowhere as she did so. To my intense relief, however, she did not open the door, but sat down just outside (imagine my feelings!) and began to carry on a conversation with me—only she did it all herself—in the following fashion:

"What lovely weather we have been having lately, Miss Flutter!"

"Yes, indeed; it makes me quite long for the country. When are you going out of town?"

"Then, after a pause, 'The Larkinses' (these were friends of mine) 'are going to Brighton, I hear. Where do you think of spending the autumn?'"

"At Torquay, if I can get reasonable lodgings. Everything is so very dear there, however. What a beautiful shawl you have! Is it Indian?"

"Yes; it was a present from dear old General Mulligatawny," &c., &c.

"It was not until she had been going on like this for some time

that I perceived that she was playing, like a child, at morning calls, and that the church-service represented a card-case. Presently, much to my joy, she left my cupboard, and knocked at other imaginary doors, paying at each a most fashionable visit of some duration. Then began a still more singular proceeding. She dragged out her large box into the middle of the room, and placed upon it two towels very smoothly; upon this she put her brush and comb and tooth-brush, and a number of other little articles, which, as I guessed, represented knives and forks, arranged her two chairs round this improvised table, and then sat down to entertain an imaginary dinner-party. I had a little recovered myself by this time, and was better able to appreciate the merits of this second performance. She imitated the conversation of myself as hostess, and that of various friends of mine as guests, to admiration, dilated upon the opera and the theatres, showed herself conversant with the movements of the Court, and even rallied our excellent doctor (one of the best in Bath) upon his opinions, which I have always told him are revolutionary. She pressed upon all their favourite dishes, and at last, when this Barmecide feast had come to an end, she bowed to an invisible lady, and then rose, no doubt, to retire to the drawing-room. Her hour was up, thank goodness! and it was evident that this Cinderella of the attic was about to descend from these imaginary festivities and fashionable dreams to her parlour-maid's work again. She hung up her bonnet and shawl, put back the towels, and with just one look at the glass—to see, I suppose, that all her airs and graces had disappeared—she left the room and tripped downstairs."

"She was mad, of course," said Lady Stalkingham. "How lucky it was you found her out before she smothered you all in your beds."

"So I thought at the time, your ladyship. I dared not tell her that I had stooped to the meanness of having played the spy upon her, nor could I venture to keep so eccentric a young person in my house. So upon the plea of the great inconvenience of that hour to herself, which I was very sure she would not give up, we parted. I was very sorry to lose her, and so were her fellow-servants; and I had afterward reason to think that a bee in the bonnet is not so bad in a parlourmaid as cherry-coloured ribbons. However, as I say, she left me, and I did not see her again for the next five years, when the circumstance occurred wherein lies the gist of my story."

"I had changed my residence from Bath to Brighton, and was sitting one summer afternoon in my little balcony, when an open carriage drawn by two beautiful ponies, and driven by a handsomely-dressed lady, stopped at my door. I was sure that there was some mistake, since I knew nobody who possessed so well-appointed a vehicle, and was greatly surprised when, on the door being answered, the visitor, instead of driving away, got out and followed my servant, bearing a card with 'Mrs. Leslie' engraved upon it, into the drawing-room. I took the card, of course, but, 'Really,' said I, 'I think there is some misapprehension—'

"Not at all," said the lady, smiling; 'I know you very well, madam, and you knew me when my name was Emily Seton.'

"It was indeed my old parlour-maid, although I should never have guessed it, so very much is there in altered attire and the confidence that is begotten by prosperous circumstances."

"You were once very kind to me, Miss Flutter," said she tenderly, "and I always wished to thank you for it; and, moreover, I owe you an explanation for what must have seemed to you very objectless and obstinate behaviour on my part while in your service."

"She little knew why I coloured up and told her that that was not necessary (for indeed it wasn't), and that I entertained nothing but the kindest sentiments with respect to her, and warm approval of her conduct. She insisted on telling me the whole story, which I knew so well, of how she had occupied that hour to herself for which she stickled so peremptorily. 'And now,' said she, when that recital was finished, 'I will tell you why I did so. I had always a conviction that I was "born to greatness;" not doomed, at all events, to be a mere servant maid all my life; and therefore I never lost an opportunity for learning the part of gentlewoman, which I should one day have to play. It would be a great thing for me, I reasoned, if the gentleman who was to make me his wife should have no cause to be ashamed of me as to my behaviour in society, and therefore I cultivated my manners by observing those of my betters with whom I came in contact, and by imitating them to the best of my ability. I paid calls up in my poor attic as I saw your visitors did below-stairs, and practised the hostess after your excellent model, in readiness for the day, which at length arrived, when I should have to do such things in reality and upon my own account.'

"And how did the day arrive, my dear Mrs. Leslie?" inquired I, with unfeigned interest.

"Well, madam, I left your service, as you remember, for that of an invalid lady, whose good opinion I was fortunate enough to obtain. From her lady's-maid I grew to be her "companion."

My manners, my reading—every little advantage I had acquired, in fact—became of use to me in that position; though, so far as dear James is concerned—here she dropped her long black eyelashes, and really looked quite beautiful—“I dare to believe that he loves me for myself alone.”

“But who is dear James?” inquired I.

“Oh, please, ma'am, I forgot,” said Emily, falling inadvertently into her old manner with me. “He was my mistress's nephew, to whom she left all her property, and he has done me the honour to make me his wife.”

“I was afterwards introduced to her husband,” continued Miss Flutter, “and found them a very happy pair. So, though what you were saying, my lady, is doubtless true, about young persons who marry above their sphere, this case was an exception.”

POSTAL NOTICES.

List of unclaimed letters &c. remaining at the British Post office, January 18th, 1878:—

Anderson Rolf	Mannin Mrs
Brown Thomas	McKibir John
Blundell A. W.	Newton, W.
Cochran Geo. Revd.	Noyes Hattie, Miss
Ferguson Kenneth	Plugge, P. C., Dr.
Gilbert, B.	Trunja, Moses & Co.
Giovani Crivicich	Watt, W.
Halurhaba Adolf Revd.	Waser Suber
Kuki Riuchi (Regd. Letter)	Waters, J. M.
Mapstone Geo.	

MERCHANT VESSELS.

“August”	“Julia A. Brown”
“Christine”	“Kedar”
“Ceylon”	“Loyal Sam”
“Fair Leader”	“Midnight”
“Grenada”	“Maro”
“H. G. Wappans”	“Sir Lancelot”
“Hudson” (Regd. Letter)	“William Manson”

F. G. MACHADO,
Post Master.

Post Office, Yokohama,
18th January, 1878.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial Japanese Post Office, January 18th, 1878:—

Armstrong, H. B.	Marie, Mrs. A., Tokio
Andrews, E.	Mendelson Bros.
Allin, H. N., Tokio, 2	Prestleff, B., Tokio
Burnes, John J.	Place, Edwd., Register
Bianchi, L., Tokio.	Pousset, F.
Campbell, A. A.	Pigeon, F., Tokio
Cartman, E., Tokio	Robertson, S.
Carme, P.	Rockwell, G. J., Tokio
Cheesman, F.	Richards, Wm. H., 2
Clark, W. S.	Schneider, Dr. A. Tokio
Camhefert, Emile.	Shinagaya, R.
Churchill, Rev. H. A.	Senel
Day, T.	Saito, T.
Degron, M. Refused	Sekiya K., Tokio
Eaton, G., Tokio	Schwaub, M.
Evans, Hornby, Tokio, 2	Smith, Wm.
Edwards, Mrs.	Tailer, B.
Flood, Wm.	Tracy, John
Fagan, C. D. F.	Theall, James
Godfrey, J. G. H., Tokio, 4	Toby, Miss, Tokio
Hansen, E., Tokio	Taylor, Mrs.
Hall, Sam H.	Tarbell, Rev.
Hamill, G. D.	Trungia, Moses & Co.
Hoffman,	Thorol, H.
Hansen, E., Tokio	Uriu, T.
Hashimoto, M.	Van Peth, M. F.
Harding W. J., Tokio	Walker, G. W., Tokio
Jacobs, Frederic S.	Wychoff
Kluge, Theodore, Tokio	Wylie, A. H.
Kelaimbi & Son.	Wilson, North & Co.
Myacila	Watt W.
Mansfield	Yona, Kitchie

SHIPS.

Barque “Ariola”	S. S. “Patro”
	Ship “Sunner R. Mead.”

L. T. FARR,
Acting Superintendent.

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, Jan. 18th, 1878.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c..

Bread	.08 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	.10 to .18	“
Mutton	.19 to .30	“
Veal	.25	“
Pork	.12 to .16	“
Sausages	.30	“
Beef—Jap. Butchers	.10 to .16	“
Mutton	.16 to .25	“
Veal	.20	“
Pork	.10	“
Sausages	.20	“
Oysters	.05 to .10	per 100
Eggs	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	.07 to .10	per lb.
Chickens	.15 to .25	each.
Geese	.75 to 1.00	“
Wild geese	.75 to 1.00	“
Pigeons	.08 to .10	“
Turkeys	2.00 to 3.50	“
Hen Turkeys		“
Deer	.15	per lb.
Wild—boar	.12	“
Hares	.37 to .50	each.
Pheasants	.35 to .40	“
Quail	.08 to .10	“
Snipe	.06 to .08	“
Woodcock	.35 to .40	“
Wild ducks	.37 to .40	“
Bombay Onions	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	.125	“
English Coal	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	8.50 to 10.00	“
Anthracite	15.00 to 17.00	“
Australian Coal	10.50 to 11.50	“

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes, sweet potatoes cabbage, small cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes, lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery, turnips & carrots.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

Price Twenty-four Dollars Per Annum.

CONTENTS OF No. 4. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. JANUARY 26TH, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

Plutonomy in Japan. The Trans-Pacific Cable Company. The Assassination of Mr. Richardson.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Telegrams.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon.
Chap 4. The Biwa Bandits.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Jurisdiction over Foreigners. (From the *Hochi Shimbun*.)

“Born to Greatness.” By James Payn.

The Housekeeper,
(being a list of prices current for provisions, in foreign shops and native markets.)

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 3. JANUARY 19, 1878.

Tea. 1877-1878. The Japanese Civil Service. REVIEW. The *Japan Gazette's* Hong List and Directory.

Editorial Notes. Telegrams. Notes of the Week.

The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 3.

Notes and Queries.

Children I have met. By James Payn. Chap. 3.

Professions and Trades Directory The Housekeeper. Mail Steamers Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements

IMPORTS.	Prices.	Reported Sales.	REMARKS.
Cotton Yarn—			
Nos. 16 to 24 per picul	\$27.75 @ 33.00	} 1,453 Bales	Continue in good demand in spite of free sales. In good enquiry. Quick, medium and best spinnings asked for. Dull and prices nominal. In good demand. Do.
ditto Reverse "	34.50 " 36.00		
28 to 32 "	32.50 " 35.75		
38 to 42 "	36.00 " 39.00		
(Bombay) No. 20 "	29.75 " 30.05		
" lower counts No. 14, 16 & 18	27.75 " 29.75		
Cotton Piece Goods—			
Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	1.50 " 1.90	1,200 Pieces	Readily saleable.
" " 8.4 "	1.75 " 2.35	4,700 "	Quick except ordinary makes.
" " 9 lbs., 45 in. "	2.17½ " 2.55	4,200 "	Quick.
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. "	1.12½ " 1.22½	114 "	} Nothing doing, prices nominal.
" 7.0 lbs. "	1.45 " 1.65		
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. "	2.47½ " 2.72½		Saleable.
White Shirtings 60 to 64 reeds			
40 yds. by 35 in. "	2.00 " 2.35	300 "	Nominal, dull.
Indigo Shirtings 12 yds by 44 in. "	1.62½ " 1.67½		In fair demand
Turkey red Cambrics 2.0 to 2½ lbs. "	1.75 " 1.97½	1,500 "	In good demand
3.0 lbs. "	2.10 " 2.20		In fairly good request.
Black Velvets "	7.47½ " 8.35	550 "	In fair demand.
Taffachelass (single warp) "	1.65 " 1.75		} Nominal, nothing doing.
" (double warp) "	1.90 " 2.00		
Chintzes (assorted) "	1.65 " 2.05		Quick, saleable at quotations.
Victoria Lawns "	0.80 " 0.85		In fair request.
Cotton Italians (col'd) per yard	0.12½ " 0.14½		In moderate demand.
" " (blk.) "	0.09 " 0.12½		In fair demand.
Woolens and Worsteds—			
Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards per piece	5.25 " 7.25		Saleable in small lots, best quality enquired for.
Mousselines de Laine 24 to 30 yds. by 31 in.			
Plain 24 to 30 yds. 31 in. per yard	0.17½ " 0.18	5,500 "	Very firm, holders ask for higher prices.
Striped 24 to 30 yds. 31 in. "	0.20 " 0.20½		Saleable.
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	4.50 " 4.75	550 "	Do.
Cloth (woollen) per yard	1.20 " 1.80		Very little doing.
" Union (54 in.) "	0.65 " 1.00		No business.
Blankets 6 lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lbs.	0.40 " 0.41½	2,000 pairs.	Saleable at quotations.
" 7 " to 8 " " "	0.38 " 0.39		Do.
Metals, &c.—			
Iron, Nail Rod—large per picul	2.60 " 2.85		The cargo of Kerosine oil per Hudson was most sold to arrive, and prices were not material affected by her arrival. Two vessels are coming from Kope with part cargoes, and 60,000 cases are on their way from Java direct, so that our market shows weakness at the close. There is absolutely nothing to report on other sundries: business being almost entirely at stand-still.
" " small "	3.00 " 3.25		
" Bars, flat and round "	2.60 " 3.30		
" Pig "	1.60 " 1.80		
Lead " "	7.20 " 7.45		
Tin Plates "	6.25 " "		
Window Glass per box	2.99 " 3.10		
Kerosine Oil per case	39.00 " "		
Quicksilver "	63.90 nominal.		
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 @ "		
" Welsh "	11.50 " 12.00		
" Australian "	8.50 " "		
China and Straits Produce—			
Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.00 " 16.75		
Formosa Sugar, Takao "	4.30 " 4.50		
" " Taiwan "	4.20 " 4.35		
" " White "	nominal		
Saigon Rice "	"		

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2 ... per pcl.	\$570 to 610 per pcl.	19s 9d to 21s 3d	55,00 fr. to 59,00 fr.	130 bales.	
" No. 2	550 to 565 "	19s 3d to 19s 10d	53,25 fr. to 54,25 fr.		
" No. 2½ (good medium)	530 to 540 "	18s 7d to 18s 11d	51,50 fr. to 52,50 fr.		
" No. 3 (medium)	500 to 520 "	17s 7d to 18s 4d	48,75 fr. to 50,55 fr.		
" Inferior	460 to 480 "	16s 3d to 16s 10d	45,00 fr. to 46,75 fr.		
Oshio No. 1 and 2	510 to 525 "	17s 11d to 18s 6d	49,55 fr. to 51,00 fr.		
" No. 1, 2 and 3	490 to 500 "	17s 3d to 17s 7d	47,75 fr. to 48,75 fr.	1000 p.	
Hamaski No. 1, 2 and 3	470 to 490 "	16s 7d to 17s 3d	45,75 fr. to 47,75 fr.		
		A moderate demand for Good Medium Grades has been the principal feature of interest on our Tea market during the closing week. Settlements of these amounting to 680 piculs at rates varying from \$18.25 to \$20.00 per picul. Sales of other classes swell the total since the 18th inst. to about 1000 piculs, and arrivals being only limited, stocks shew little increase. The latest advices from America shew the lower grades in best favour, but the arrival of a sailing cargo will probably alter the position. We make no change in the quotations, which are the same as last week.]			
Tea:—					
Common per pcl.	11.00 to 13.00 "				
Good Common	14.00 to 15.00 "				
Medium	16.00 to 18.00 "				
Good Medium	19.00 to 21.00 "				
Fine	22.00 to 26.00 "				
Finest	27.00 to 31.00 "				
Choice	36.00 to 41.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu ... per pcl.	12.00 "				
" Various	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax	13.50 "				
Coal, Takashima	9.00 to 10.50 "				
" Karatz	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice	2.20 to 2.40 "				
Sulphur (common)	2.80 to 2.60 "				
		SUNDRIES.—Nothing to report.			

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
* Feb. 5	" 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 3	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Alaska P. M. S.S.* due February 3.

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *City of Peking P. M. S.S.* sailing Jan. 29.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Mar. 5	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 27	Feb. 3	" 19	Jan. 13	" 23	Mar. 2
Feb. 10	" 17	Apr. 2	" 27	Mar. 9	" 16
" 24	Mar. 3	" 16	Feb. 10	" 23	" 30
Mar. 10	" 17	" 26	" 24	Apr. 6	Apr. 13
" 24	" 31	May 10	Mar. 10	" 20	" 27
Apr. 7	Apr. 14	" 24	" 24	May 4	May 11
" 21	" 28	June 7	Apr. 7	" 18	" 25
May 5	May 12	" 21	" 15	June 1	June 8
" 19	" 26	July 5	" 29	" 15	" 22
June 2	June 9	" 19	May 13	" 29	July 6
" 16	" 23	Aug. 2	" 27	July 13	" 20
" 30	July 7	" 16	June 10	" 27	Aug. 3
July 14	" 21	" 30	" 24	Aug. 10	" 17
" 28	Aug. 4	Sept. 13	July 8	" 24	" 31
Aug. 11	" 18	" 27	" 22	Sept. 7	Sept. 14
" 25	Sept. 1	Oct. 11	Aug. 5	" 21	" 28
Sept. 8	" 15	" 29	" 19	Oct. 5	Oct. 12
" 22	" 29	Nov. 12	Sept. 2	" 19	" 26
Oct. 6	Oct. 13	" 26	" 16	Nov. 2	Nov. 9
" 20	" 27	Dec. 10	Oct. 6	" 16	" 23
Nov. 3	Nov. 10	" 24	" 20	" 30	Dec. 7
" 17	" 24	'79 Jan. 7	Nov. 3	Dec. 14	" 21
Dec. 1	Dec. 8	" 21	" 17	" 28	'79 Jan. 4
" 15	" 22	Feb. 4	Dec. 1	'79 Jan. 11	" 18
" 29	'79 Jan. 5	" 18	" 15	" 25	Feb. 1

• The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

• No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

• Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

• Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

DOWN TRAINS.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	FARES.
														1st. 2nd. 3rd.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	yen sen yen sen yen sen.
3 1/2	Shinagawa ...	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	... 25 ... 10 ... 5
6	Omori ...	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	... 40 ... 20 ... 10
10 1/2	Kawasaki ...	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	... 55 ... 30 ... 15
12 1/2	Tsurumi ...	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	... 70 ... 40 ... 20
16 1/2	Kanagawa ...	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	... 85 ... 50 ... 25
18	Yokohama ...	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	... 1 00 ... 60 ... 30

UP TRAINS.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	FARES.
														1st. 2nd. 3rd.
—	Yokohama ...	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	yen sen yen sen yen sen.
1 1/2	Kanagawa ...	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	... 15 ... 10 ... 5
5 1/2	Tsurumi ...	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	... 30 ... 20 ... 10
7 1/2	Kawasaki ...	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	... 40 ... 30 ... 15
12	Omori ...	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	... 60 ... 40 ... 20
14 1/2	Shinagawa ...	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	... 75 ... 50 ... 25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	... 1 00 ... 60 ... 30

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Jan. 19	Tanais	De la Marcelle	Frch. str.	1,735	Hongkong	Jan. 11	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 20	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,240	Hiogo	" 18	General	M. B. Co.
" 23	Hudson	Vaughan	Am. barq.		New York	" 13	Kerosine	C. & J. Trading Co.
" 24	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai & ports	" 16	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 24	Coriolanus	Cawse	Bri. str.	1,045	Nagasaki	" 19	Coals	Japanese
" 25	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 26	Bombay	Briscoe	Brit. str.	1,327	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Pallardy and Lemoine and 1 Japanese.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Turner, Groom, Ewing, Wiggins, Cuthbertson, Hunter, Hafto, Betsuyaka, Arikawa, Hiyashi, Tamano, Nagano, Akizuki, Nishimura, Nagai, Tyeda, Ichikawa, Sonoda, Karokawa, and Kondow in cabin; and 73 Prisoners, 22 Policemen, and 269 Japanese in the steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Bombay* from Hongkong:—Dr. and Mrs. Wood and child, Messrs. P. Howard, Sim Poh, Sing Koye; and two Chinese on deck.

Per Steam-ship *City of Peking* from Hongkong—For Yokohama: One Chinese in the steerage. For San Francisco: 146 Chinese in the steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S. S. "Galley of Lorne," Nov. 21.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Bertha Marion," July 30; "Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Sumner R. Mead," Oct. 26.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Aureola," Sept. 19.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Midnight," July 27; "Ladoga," Sep. 20.

FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 23; "August," Oct. 16.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—S.S. "Glenorchy," S.S. "Lorne," S.S. "Caldera," S.S. "Cairnsmuir," "Sir Harry Parkes," "Coulmakyle."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. Jan. 26th; Hongkong M. M. str. Feb. 3rd; America P. M. str. Jan. 30th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. str. Feb. 1st.

CARGO:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais*, from Hongkong:—1,794 packages Sugar; 3,601 packages General.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—\$49,500.00 Treasure.

Per Brit. str. *Bombay*, from Hongkong:—1,725 packages Sugar; 1,791 packages General; 478 packages Ex. *Mongolian*.

REPORTS:—The British ship *Coriolanus* reports:—Sailed from Nagasaki on the 19th. Had fine weather all through, winds moderate from North to North-West; passed Rock Island midnight on Tuesday, light airs and calms since.

The Am. str. *City of Peking* reports:—Left Hongkong January 19th, at 3 a.m., with 3 bags mail, 3 European and 146 Chinese passengers—the latter in steerage, and 1,916 tons cargo; of which one Chinese passenger, one bag mail, and 994 tons cargo are for this port. Experienced strong monsoon in Formosa Channel, thence to port moderate to fresh northerly and south-easterly winds, with smooth sea.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Jan. 21	Malabar	Gould	Brit. str.	1,260	Hiogo	Jan. 23	General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 22	Sunda	Reeves	Brit. str.	1,704	Hongkong	" 29	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 22	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,343	Kobe	" 27	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 23	Akitsuishima Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	1,751	Hakodate	" 27	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 23	Meiji Maru	Peters	Jap. str.	1,010	Cruise			Lighthouse Department
" 23	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Shanghai & ports		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 25	Newman Hall	Slater	Bri. ship.	1,523	Callao		Ballast	Findlay, R. & Co.
" 26	Eme	Asals	Bri. Barq.	731	Kobe		Ballast	Ed. Fischer & Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong:—13 Chinese, 2 Manilamen and 1 Japanese in the steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Oye, Mr. and Mrs. Seki, Mrs. Ekstrand, Mrs. Fukura and child, Messrs. Takashima, Win, Oesterwisch, Nakai, Onoki, Wolff, Miura, Yamao, O. N. Tenabe, O. K. Tanabe, Katayama, Karuna Kuri, O. Reimers, E. Marina and L. Jacobi.

LOADING:—*Messenger*, for New York, quick despatch.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Laura R. Burnham, for Melbourne, quick despatch.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

State of Alabama, for Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, quick despatch.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

City of Peking, for San Francisco, January 29th.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Tibre, for Hongkong, January 20th.—M. M. Co.

Tokio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, January 30th.—M. B. S. S. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. February 5th; for Hongkong M. M. str. January 29th; for America P. M. str. January 29th; for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. January 30th; for Yokkaichi, M. B. Co. str. *Shurimaru* Jan 27th; for Kobe, M. B. Co. str. *Hiogo Maru* Jan. 27th; for Hakodate, M. B. Co. str. *Siminoye Maru* Feb. 3rd.

CARGOES:—Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong:—For France, 46 bales Silk.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—\$5,400.00; and 13,500.00 Yen.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Akitashima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,751	Hakodate	Jan. 15	M. B. Co.	Hakodate
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Laid up
Bombay	Briscoe	English steamer	1,327	Hongkong	Jan. 26	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong
City of Peking	Tanner	Am. steamer	5,079	Hongkong	Jan. 25	P. M. Co.	San Francisco
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Repairing
Horai Maru	Frank	Japanese steamer	600	Yokkaichi	Jan. 17	M. B. Co.	
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong	Jan. 11	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong
State of Alabama	Richie	British steamer	1,250	London *	Jan. 16	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Suminoura Maru	Spiegelthal	Japanese steamer	925	Sendai	Jan. 18	M. B. Co.	
Tanis	De la Marcella	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	Jan. 19	M. B. Co.	Hongkong
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Tibre	De Gerard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Jan. 9	M. M. Co.	Hongkong, &c.
Tokio Maru	Swain	Japanese steamer	2,119	Shanghai & ports	Jan. 24	M. B. Co.	Shanghai & ports
SAILING SHIPS.							
Anriga	Messer	British barque	650	Cardiff	Jan. 18	M. M. Co.	
Evelyn	Knowles	British barque	650	London	Jan. 7	Wilkin & Robison	
Fire Queen	Hamilton	British barque	769	Cardiff	Jan. 4	Findlay Richardson & Co.	For fr'ght. or ch'ter.
Hudson	Vaughan	American barque		New York	Jan. 23	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Jupier	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Laura A. Burnham	Phillips	Am. barkantine	600	Newcastle, NSW	Dec. 2	Carl Rhode & Co.	Melbourne
Lombardian	Chapman	British barque	718	Hongkong	Jan. 11	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Messenger	Gilkey	American ship	1027	Hakodate	Dec. 15	Smith, Baker & Co.	New York
Oceanus	Brorsen	German brig	207	Shanghai	Dec. 23	Lane, Crawford & Co.	
One	Morgan	British barque	523	Cardiff	Dec. 12	Ed. Fischer & Co.	Europe
Otago	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	

* via Singapore, Hongkong, Shanghai & Nagasaki.

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Alert	4	541	Sloop	Commander R. Boyd
BRITISH—Modesto	14	1405	Corvette	Captain Buller, C.B.
" Sylvia	—	877	Surveying vessel	Commander Aldrich

EXCHANGE.—Business during the week has been trifling, hardly and Bank paper has been settled in spite of the large business done in yarns: a little private paper only was settled during the last two days. Rates are weak. We quote:—
 We quote:—London, 6 months Bank 3s. 11d. Private 3s. 11½d. Hongkong Demand Bank ¼ per cent disc.
 10 days sight Private ½ per cent disc. Shanghai Demand Bank 71½ 10 days sight Private 72. BULLION Gold' yen 386½ Silver yen 401.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay. Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
 Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Malate.
 Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
 Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
 China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
 Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
 RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

Chairman—H. HOPPIUS, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—F. D. SABSOON, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, A. Mclver, Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., Ed. Tobin, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpotts, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID MCLAREN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,

Acting Manager.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,

PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.

MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Gedown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1 1/2	Per Cent.
" " " " " " " " " "	6 " " " " " " " "	1 " "	" "
" " " " " " " " " "	3 " " " " " " " "	3 " "	" "
" " " " " " " " " "	1 " " " " " " " "	1 " "	" "
" " " " " " " " " "	10 days " " " " " "	3-16 " "	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2 1/2	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " " " "	3 " "	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1 1/2	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " " " "	2 " "	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,

Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,**
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250	9 approximations of \$500
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " " 250 "
	Ticket \$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

GRAND HOTEL, NO. 20, BUND, YOKOHAMA.
AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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THE JAPAN TIMES,

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 5.]

February 2, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

JAPANESE TEAS.

IN a partial report on the Tea season of 1877-78, which appeared in the last number but one of this Review, we made some comments upon the careless curing, up-country, of the natural leaf; and also on the anxiety manifested by the natives, to produce both Japan Black Teas, and Uncoloured Japans, packed and fired so as to be suitable for direct shipment by foreign exporters. These are important subjects which deserve further consideration.

The first—the growing inferiority of the natural leaf, noticed as it is brought down, season after season, no doubt arises from the steady decline in price enforced by Yokohama native dealers, who,—finding that foreign buyers will not continue to take inferior quality, year after year, without reducing their offers,—are obliged, for their own protection, to adopt the same course in their operations up-country. Another cause for the evil is, that the shrubs are evidently too closely plucked, and thus is impoverished each succeeding year's crop. The excess gathered produces another bad result—glut of the market: thus, if they would spare a large proportion of common third crop pickings, they would alike benefit the Tea plant up country and improve their own market in Yokohama.

Their attempt to rival either China or India, in the production of Black Teas, we regret to have to condemn as chimerical in the extreme. The Japanese had established a high reputation with consumers in the United States for their own uncoloured leaf,—had, in fact, driven a large proportion of both Greens and Oolongs out of consumption; and with only a little moderation in production, and devotion of their attention to improving picking and preparation, there is no doubt that Uncoloured Japans would have maintained their character and high quotations in America. But no:—patience, perseverance, moderation, are virtues which do not characterize the Japanese peasant cultivator of either Tea or Silk; and the fables of the Dog and his shadow, and of the Goose with the golden eggs are addressed to him in vain. Not content with having largely increased their export, and found a most remunerative market, within a very limited number of years; they grasp at more, and risk losing all. A desire for novelty, for change, for experiment, is also another failing of the national character: and all these defects are reflected in a Notification, recently issued by the Naimusho, urging the preparation of Black Tea, which we quote:—

“Tea is one of the principal productions of Japan, and is a source of considerable wealth to the country. Our method of preparation does not, however, suit the foreign markets, and we must accordingly introduce the same process as that which is adopted in China. At present it is only in America that our tea finds a market, and thus although the production of tea has greatly extended in our country, the price has fallen so low that our increased labours have been productive of no proportionate gain. Commissioners were therefore some time ago despatched

to India and China, in order to learn the best way of manufacturing black tea. It has been found that the method followed in India is superior to that in China, and Indian teas have now obtained a good reputation in Western markets. Some experiments on the manufacture of black leaf have been made in Kôchi Ken, and the results have been found to be adapted to foreign requirements. Now should we at first send an inferior article to foreign markets, our reputation for its manufacture would be ruined and the trade result in ultimate loss. We shall therefore issue instructions as to the best method of preparing black tea (*literally red tea*) in order that they may be strictly followed.”

Of course, no one would blame a nation or its government for endeavouring to stimulate industries of all descriptions; but why not improve, first, to the highest attainable point, the production of Japan's own natural leaf,—before rushing into competition with other countries, where soil, climate, and the nature of their variety of the Tea shrub favour the production of Black Tea? And at what a risk!—that of absolutely destroying a trade which has grown rapidly, and is susceptible of great increase, but which has but one market, which they are doing their very utmost to lose. Is it possible that the Minister for Public Industry is as blind as the Tea dealer or the peasant, and fails to see the danger which impends over the Japan Tea trade? That danger is—that, if uncoloured Japan Teas continue much longer to depreciate in quality, American consumers may take to drinking Black Teas. And if they do, those Black Teas will assuredly not be of Japanese production.

Returning to the attempts to fire and pack tea up country; we have further to advise our native friends, in opposition to their idea: that a large outlay per picul for tea leads, for a better style of boxes and packing, and other expenses, will be necessitated; which, as the tea growers are not, generally, men of such means as the Chinese Tea farmers, or the English Tea Companies in Assam, must be provided for them. Further must be taken into consideration the risk of transport to the port of foreign shipment, and the heavy loss which would be incurred, did a parcel arrive in bad order and require repacking. In China, these risks are greatly lessened by the facilities given by the canals for safe and rapid transit by water-carriage; facilities which this country only enjoys in a very inferior degree.

It is hardly necessary to tell Japanese merchants that their reputation for honesty amongst foreign buyers of produce is at present so low, that they would, assuredly, not find a single purchaser in any open port for their country packed teas, unless every box was opened and inspected. This is another disadvantage under which they labour in their attempt to compete with the Chinaman in growing Black Teas. Consequently, they would have to ship their tea themselves. And the following extract from an Amoy circular, they may think worthy of perusal; as bearing on the question of native packing by amateurs who have not

aproper understanding of the markets for which the goods are designed:—

"FORMOSA OOLONG. The market at Tamsui opened much earlier than usual, the first purchases being made about 25th April. After that date, buying became general, the native packing hong the chief operators; for, on account of the very high prices paid by them, foreigners were almost entirely out of the market. These native packed Teas, although scarcely up to an average in quality, being thin in the cup and many of them badly fired, met with a fair reception on this market; and, a general disposition being manifested to fill first orders, some rather large settlements were made at rates slightly under those paid at the opening of the previous season. The teamen having made good profits upon first sales, sent large orders to Tamsui to secure teas, apparently regardless of cost, and in consequence, a large quantity of badly picked and lightly fired teas, were rushed forward to this market. In the meantime however, Foreign buyers, having satisfied their early requirements, became very quiet, and when the result of the early shipments was wired from New York, a complete reaction set in. During the whole of July and August the transactions reported were unimportant.

"In September, stocks had accumulated to the extent of nearly 70,000 half-chests, chiefly light fired spring tea, and about the middle of this month prices touched the lowest point of the season. The summer crop leaf beginning to arrive, and proving of good quality, caused holders to be anxious about their first crop teas, which were rapidly deteriorating on account of their light fire; and rather better accounts coming from America, a demand set in which was very freely met by the teamen, the result being that the whole of the above mentioned stock was bought up in the space of about a fortnight, on an average decline from opening rates of from \$5 to \$15 per pecul.

"All through October, transactions continued on a moderate scale; well fired full bodied summer teas being in demand and scarce, realized full prices. Towards the end of this month there was a little competition for Finest and Choice kinds for London, and upon these an advance took place of \$4 to \$6 per pecul.

"In November, a fair selection of Autumn crop tea was placed on the market, but the quality was generally pronounced to be unsatisfactory, most of the chops being very thin in the cup and badly fired. All through this month holders continued very firm, although on a few settlements here and there, a decline was established of \$1 to \$2 per pecul.

"During the early part of December moderate settlements took place and prices remained firm, but as stocks were rather large, teamen became anxious to get quit of them before the close of the year, and having at last given way in their ideas of price, some 35,000 half-chests were settled at an average decline of \$1 to \$2 per pecul, thus finishing the season for this description of tea.

"The result to the native packers at Tamsui during the past season, has been a decidedly unsatisfactory one. Their losses are computed at about \$150,000, and not a few of them have become bankrupt."

Precisely the same result may be predicted for the majority of the speculations here, in shipments made, during the current seasons, of uncoloured Japan Teas, native fired, and shipped on native account. The Japanese seem entirely to overlook that, in all things, time and experience are required to ensure success. A thorough knowledge of the home markets is essential; firing in different styles is in fashion in different localities; and teas, which would find favour in Chicago, would hardly suit Canada. How the native Tea-firers up country are to kept posted-up, as to the style in favour at any given date, or in any given place, is a matter difficult to conceive. And there is a natural and recognized antagonism between buyer and seller; there is an equally natural resentment, very easily excited, at any attempt, in an old established trade, to get rid of any 'middlemen' who have a prescriptive right to their share of the profits, which come to them in the shape of brokerages and commissions, for the performance of certain well-defined services—such as inspection of pro-

duce, packing, shipping, landing, sampling, selling. All these services require a lengthy and costly apprenticeship, to ensure their perfect performance, and the labourer in each department is well worth his hire. All this is an illustration of a fundamental principle of Plutonomy—'Division of labour.' Against all these antagonisms, against all these vested interests, against this fundamental principle of the Science of Wealth—the native shipper of produce has to fight. He has never succeeded yet, and he most certainly never will. Indian shippers of cotton, Chinese shippers of tea and silk, Japanese exporters of silk worms' eggs, have all individually and collectively 'come to grief.' Now we see that Formosan teamen have fallen into the same gulf of bankruptcy, and we earnestly warn Japanese teamen to pause upon the brink before they take the same fatal plunge.

To sum up, in conclusion:—the producer has hitherto received full value for his crop from the foreign buyer in Yokohama:—if prices now rule low here, it is on account of over-production up-country, and from the inferior quality of the tea sent down for sale. But the native dealer gets hard cash, on the spot; he runs no risk of bad debts, no danger of his commodity lying for a long time unsold; and he is able to turn over his capital rapidly. Whereas, if the Japanese attempt to fire Tea up-country, they will probably have to export largely on their own account; for, besides the special reason given in another paragraph, foreign buyers would only select such parcels as they knew would suit the Home markets; and many specimens of the native firing, they would hold to be dear at two-thirds of the value of the original leaf before final preparation for export.

Government interference with trade is always bad: as a rule. But Government Notifications seem to be employed in Japan for giving advice as well as orders. And in giving advice in such a form, Government might confer a benefit, instead of doing harm:—if, instead of stimulating an attempt to make Black Tea out of a leaf which will not make it, it would impress on producers the great necessity of giving more attention to the growing, picking, and first preparation of the leaf up-country; secondly, if it would reprobate the practice of mixing together the leaf of various provinces, at least, if not of districts; and thirdly, if it would give encouragement and assistance to teamen to get the crop down rapidly, so as to give it into the hands of foreign buyers, fresh, and thus enable them to complete the process of firing whilst the leaf is in a state most favourable for the process, and likely to produce the most satisfactory results.

MIXED COURTS.

THE difficulties which obstruct the smooth conduct of commercial relations between Eastern and Western races have been hitherto insuperable: no expedient has yet been found which satisfactorily supplies the want of a tribunal to adjudicate upon commercial disputes, or to administer a criminal law, between members of the various nationalities which have clustered round the *emporiums* of Trade; no means of conciliating the prejudices of peoples of different eras of civilization. The '*Lingua Franca*' and '*pidgin*' have bridged over the streams of divergent languages. Even creeds have owned the mild sway of Commerce; and Religion,—the prime cause of so many wars, of so much bloodshed; the excuse for so much oppression, torture, and all the atrocities which rulers have inflicted on its professors—has not interfered with Trade. From the time when the Law was proclaimed on Sinai; onwards to the period when 'not peace, but a sword' was sent as a Divine message to humanity; through all history, up to this last pseudo-crusade of the Cross against the Crescent—for the suffering victims of bigotry and intolerance, Commerce has provided solace. But for the internal

disputes of Commerce itself has been found no common tribunal, and this, because the administration of Law must necessarily be in the hands of the State. The State must supply the machinery and the means to work it: enthusiasts have founded a bench of Bishops; but no maniac has as yet bequeathed a legacy, or given in his life time so much as the price of a halter, towards defraying the expenses of the administration of Justice. Thus Law has always been dependent for its support upon the State, and so remains; though, in nations loving freedom, the administrators of the Law are the chief supporters of the cause of Liberty. Moreover, there is no science so anomalous as the science of Law; so radical in its theory, it is conservative in practice; so consistent to the elementary principles from which it deduces its sanctions, the application of those sanctions diverges on contact with the morality of a tribe; even with the direction of a stream, or with the altitude of a range of hills. *

With certain exceptions, there is no power which admits the establishment of the judicial Courts of one State within the territories of another. These exceptions have been the Factories, established for commercial purposes, whether by treaty or on sufferance, by a civilized nation within the territory of one less advanced. Sir G. Cornewall Lewis, writing on Foreign Jurisdiction, says:—

"Factories have always been allowed to appoint magistrates of their own, and to exercise an independent jurisdiction, from the Greek factory of Naucrates in ancient Egypt, and the factories of the Genoese and Venetians in the Levant, to those of the English East India Company in Hindustan."

And later still, in our more modern settlements in China and Japan. It is true that the situation, in these settlements, differs from that of the factories; in that, in the latter, the privilege was conceded but to one nation in each establishment, which erected therein its own Courts, and "imported" its own magistrates and laws:—while, in the former, we have musters of every nation, each with its attendant Minister and Consul, and each claiming the right of extra-territorial jurisdiction, though—as in some cases happens,—it contributes not one iota to the prosperity of the settlement, or to the advancement of the country: a concourse of feasters that requires no Goddess, no golden apple, to discord.

There are two branches of the legal family in Occidental States: the one springing from the feudal system, and the other from the *jus civile*, (for the so-called 'canon law' was but an adaptation of the *jus civile* to ecclesiastical prejudice,) and in these States, these two branches grow together, and bear their fruit harmoniously. But much wider is the gulf between the Eastern and the Western comity: at present, as we have already shown in these columns, the antagonistic spirit of Orientalism to liberty, and to those rights of man which we have termed 'a give-and-take equality,' will not permit the acceptance of Japanese or Chinese jurisdiction by the citizens of other States: the native courts of Japan, though numerous, are still young; and as minors at present *in statu pupillari*, are incapable of entering upon the inheritance of jurisdiction. They may find the rule of the guardians appointed by the Treaty Powers irksome, but how is the difficulty to be met, how is the estate to be administered, until the period when they shall attain to 'years of discretion'? The expedient of Mixed Courts is submitted for approval; and at the end of a remarkable article from the *Hochi Shimbun* of which a translation appeared in this Review last week, the writer decisively claims for it the powers of a *panacea* for all the evils of Extra territoriality. As this writer will have remarked, we treated the first part of his article with

all due respect; but such could not be conceded to his conclusion, unsupported as it was by argument, and so easily proved to be wrong. The expedient of Mixed Courts is, in fact, insupportable by argument, and experience has shown it to be inefficient.

It is not unlikely that to some of our readers may occur a familiar example of a Mixed Court, that which sits in Shanghai; and its reputation for a fair degree of success may induce quotation of it in appeal from our verdict. But this will only be done by a cursory observer, misled by its name, and ignorant of its nature. This Court is presided over by a Mandarin, with a Consular officer of the foreign power interested in the question, sitting with him as Assessor; and it has been found to work fairly well, whenever it has happened that the assessor is competent in legal knowledge, and determined in character. But the circumstances which necessitated the establishment of this tribunal are entirely different from those which surround the difficulty which has to be conquered here: and surely such a Mixed Court could not be acceptable to the Japanese; for its jurisdiction, there, was given for a purpose exactly opposite from that for which a Mixed Court here is sought. The Mixed Court in Shanghai has jurisdiction over the Chinese, natives of the country in which the Court is established; its jurisdiction is not over foreigners, but over native criminals, for offences committed within the limits of the foreign settlements; and civilly, concerning contracts and property, in which Chinese are defendants, and foreigners plaintiffs. So great was the corruption of the Yamén in the Chinese city, that justice was practically denied to the foreigner. The native criminal slipped easily through the fingers of the runners of the court, greased by the touch of coin; nay, the bandage fell from the eyes of Justice, and she saw that spoiling the Philistine was a virtue—not a crime. And worse than this: when the impoverished scum of the city were no longer able to fee the minions of the Yamén, they were driven out of its walls to recruit their depleted purses in the highways of the foreign settlements. These were the evils in Shanghai which loudly called for cure, and—as we have said above,—the Mixed Court affords a fair degree of relief.

But the Mixed Court which it is proposed to establish here, as an expedient to remedy the confusion arising from our divided *imperia*, is one which shall have jurisdiction over foreign residents. The builders of the Tower of Babel were scattered by the discordant braying of diverse tongues: how do the constructors of the proposed Mixed Courts expect to conquer in their fight against the differences of Law, as well as Language? A tribunal, to command the respect of litigants and the enforcement of its decrees, must be thoroughly efficient: what then, are its essentials? Certainty in its decisions; uniformity in its law; integrity, independence, and experience in its judges; and a strong, efficient staff for the execution of its orders. Will any tribunal yet proposed here, fulfil any one of these requirements? Would they be fulfilled by a Court, formed of learned persons drawn from the schools of every nation, appointed by, and paid by the Japanese Government; a Court, the compass of the scheme of which is to reconcile, if possible the conflict of laws; a Court for the enforcement of whose decisions request would have to be made to the Consular officers who protected the unsuccessful litigant? Surely such a court would command no respect; could acquire no strength: the 'glorious uncertainty of the Law' has already become a proverb; such a Court as this would convert Law into a lottery. The statement of the scheme carries its own condemnation.

Much confusion exists in the minds of laymen, as to the meaning of the term 'Equity.' It is generally assumed that Equity,—as opposed to Law—means Justice: that the harshness of the law will be tempered, by a benevolent equity judge, to relieve an unfortunate litigant from the

* *'Plaisante Justice, qu'une rivière ou une montagne borne ! Verité en deca des Pyrénées, erreur au delà !'* Pascal. Pensées Part. I. Art. VI. §8.

consequences of his own folly. This is not so: Law and Equity march arm in arm; the distinction between them lies in the difference of the remedy which the respective courts will afford; but what is unlawful at law is equally repulsive to equity. Were this not so—the uncertainty of Equity would be indeed ‘glorious,’ and it would be, indeed, as stated by a learned, but rather jocular writer,

“according to the conscience of him that is Chancellor; and as that is larger or narrower, so is Equity. ‘Tis all one as if they should make the standard for the measure ‘a Chancellor’s foot. What an uncertain measure would ‘this be! one Chancellor has a long foot, another a short ‘foot, a third an indifferent foot. It is the same thing ‘with the Chancellor’s conscience.”

No nation that has a bad system of law can produce a good system of equity. But ‘equity’ is a good cry; and a proposition for the formation of a Court to be guided by the equity of natural law, is sure to sleep well in the ears of those who revile law as they find it, and want some system which, if carried out by themselves, would be written fantasy. Yokohama of old, and some less fortunate ports in these latter days, have had experience of the occasional imbecility of Consular Courts; but Consular Courts have, of late, been much improved, and though Consular jurisdiction is still not entirely satisfactory, it is far better—and its decisions, startling though they sometimes be—are less conflicting than would be the vagaries of a Mixed Court. Human nature cannot resist the sympathy which exists amongst members of a family each member of a Mixed Court would become the advocate for the interests of some particular family or race, and the decisions of such a Court would naturally decline into awards instead of judgments; instead of being decisions upon cases arising between individuals, they would become compromises of family disputes. The only class of men who can, fearlessly and successfully carry out the grand principle of Law—that all men are equal before it—is a class of Judges who have been trained in the administration of a fixed and certain system. Let the Japanese instead of casting about for a compromise, set earnestly—and perseveringly—to work, to prepare a judicial system which will command the respect of other nations. They need not expect to satisfy every one; but, so soon as their system begins to command respect, they may please themselves. The claim for Extra-territorial jurisdiction is based upon a principle too firmly established to be yielded for a light cause. It is not a question of Power of the Nation, but of the Right of the Individual. The Consular services of the various nations of Europe are a burdensome expense, necessitated by the present state of law in Oriental states; if all or any of these can, and will, set about the task of reconciling conflicting systems, the Western world will not be slow in recognizing its success. But while awaiting such a revolution, the existing system is the best. A system by which each nation preserves its autonomy can be more easily withdrawn, when time is ripe, than would be the system of Mixed Courts, where the vested interests would be more numerous and conflicting, thereby necessitating the consent of each component part. Then, how disappointing,—were the good intentions of America, England, France and Germany, to suffer obstruction or frustration from the obstinacy or selfishness of a minor power. And, on the other hand, what a mission for Japan,—to lead the van in the march of a new Oriental civilization; to teach Eastern statesmen to construct, from the broken fragments of despots’ thrones, from the ruins of petty principalities, from the incongruous fragments of tribal customs and feudal rights and wrongs—the solid, lasting, time-defying, edifices of constitutional monarchies, parliamentary institutions, and independent juridical systems,—which, the offspring of one, are the best safeguards of both! What a glory would gild this land of the rising sun, if, from her rocks in this far Pacific sea, sprang the

fountains of the dawn of Freedom which shall, in the fullness of time, give fresh life and vigour to the fainting, effete, decaying, Eastern World!

JUDGE GOODWIN.

“Now is done the long day’s work.”

WHY is it that in this distant land, our feet, treading life’s path already toilsomely and wearily enough, should be so often arrested by the aspect of the “shadow that never brightens?” Is it because, living beyond the reach of life’s full tide, every unit of the sum of our little company becomes doubly precious, or is it because long exile from hearth and home draws closer to our hearts those of our countrymen with whom our lot is cast? We cannot tell. We only know that, month by month, and year by year, the record of sorrow and separation grows fuller and fuller; till, too bulky to be closed, its sad pages lie always open before us. One falls at the very threshold of existence, another in the fullness of years, and after the passing messenger has already cast upon him the blight of decrepitude and decay. Yet are we never prepared for our mourning. Could we be there to the end; could we say, like the friend and disciple in the beautiful fable of the Tishbite’s translation:—“As thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee,” and so walk on, side by side, till the chariot of fire parted us; then indeed, the blow might fall more gently. But even this is denied us, and even this in some cases were little potent to console.

For there are those from whom it seems that life and thought should never be reft; men to whom time only brings fuller benevolence and purer philosophy; men at whose feet we are content to sit and be taught like little children. With them the nimbus of knowledge has so hidden humanity, that we forget that they are mortal; nay, perhaps, hear the measure of “non omnis moriar” beaten more truly by their footsteps, than even by the pulsations of our own unsatisfied yearnings. Surely the place they moved in cannot be all darkness; surely the eternal sleep of Endymion cannot be for them!

Yet even while our grief is still bitter, we are glad to have known Mr. Goodwin, and proud to remember that he once lived among us. We might enumerate his works, speak of his University distinctions, and his marvellous archaeological and literary attainments; but his history is beyond the reach of our pen. We prefer to remember him as we knew him; as the unassuming scholar, who, having read far into the ample page of knowledge, had still no scorn for those who hardly deciphered its opening lines; as the just judge, who prized reconciliation above arbitration;

“Not making his high place the lawless perch
“Of wing’d ambitions, nor a vantage ground
“For pleasure; but thro’ all this tract of years,
“Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,”

and as the gentle philosopher, who, with

“that which should accompany old age,
“As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,”

has joined the immortal majority, in whose ranks only, can we cherish the hope of meeting him again.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE have determined to abandon the publication of Reuter’s telegrams, which we have hitherto given to our readers. This is a Review, not a newspaper, and it appears to us that we have hardly the right,—as we certainly have not the wish, to intrude upon the province of daily and weekly journals which amply furnish forth to the public a feast of facts. Another cause operates to push us to this end. Complaint has been made, it seems—and to us, justly—that Yokohama is worse served than her neighbours on the other side of the China sea, by the great *chef* and his *marmitons*. But, in the *Gazette* of Saturday last, we

were told, at the request of Reuter's agent, that the reason why certain *plats* of the *menu* served up in Shanghai are cut out of it when given to us here, *rechuffé*, is that "the total amount of subscriptions is much smaller in the latter, than in the former place" and that "an old adage says something about a coat having to be cut according to the cloth available for the purpose." Now this is all very well; and in ordinary times, we don't mind losing the '*rissoles à la reine*,' or even the '*vol-au-vent*,' provided we get a sufficiency of the Roast Beef of old England. Nor do we crave for a long-tailed coat, if a spencer will keep us warm. But the present is a critical time; markets are sensitive, some men's fortunes may be made or lost—some men's livelihoods almost depend on the determination of the question:—'Peace, or War;—and at such a time, if ever, should M. Reuter be liberal, and gain fresh subscribers by his generosity, instead of losing them by his parsimony. For us in Japan, links are dropped in the continuity of the telegraphic chain which connects us with the commerce and political world of Europe, and it cannot be matter of surprise that mercantile firms here, who spend, yearly, large sums in private telegrams, should, finding the public messages virtually useless, from the occasional *lacune* which occur, consider paying for what is of no use to them, a work of supererogation.

IT is of course unnecessary to say that no one blames Reuter's Agent here, for the errors of the Company or its Agents at the other end of the line. But, on the other hand, he should not retort on subscribers who complain, as in Saturday's *Gazette*. We have had during the past month, very just cause for dissatisfaction. After the fall of Plevna, the rapid advance of the Russians was recorded fairly enough, until the occupation of Adrianople. As telegrams then ceased to record more fighting;—that an Armistice had been arranged, was a logical conclusion to arrive at, and this was supported by the very important message which reached us just as this Review was going to press on the 19th:—

"Austria and England refuse to recognize any separate 'Peace, or one which is contrary to the Treaty of Paris of 1856.'"

But this, and two short messages:—"The Porte has consented to an Armistice,"—received a week before,—and "There is a suspension of hostilities in Bulgaria,"—received two days after the important news of the combined action of Austria and England, and these virtually contradicted, afterwards by, news of further fighting, is all the news that Reuter has vouchsafed to Japan. We were left to learn from China papers, not received here till the end of last week that

"Following the advice of the British Government, the 'Porte has consented to direct Armistice negotiations, and 'both Russian and Turkish commanders have received 'instructions to conclude an Armistice. (London, January 9th.)"

and also that, under date from London of the 14th:—

"Servier Namyk has started for Kezanlik to treat about 'the Armistice.'"

These missing links complete the chain of information: and it is no sufficient answer to subscribers, who complain of their omission, that Japan does not pay as much as China. We could very well have done without the news from the Cape, if something had to be docked from our allowance; but we ought to have been told about the Armistice.

THE news from Europe received during the Week are of the highest importance, and doubtless our readers have all formed opinions respecting them. It is possible, that when prophecy approaches a little nearer to fulfilment, we may hazard an expression of our view of the European situation. But such is hardly within our province, except as bearing on Japan trade, and therefore, for this week, we shall be guided by the aphorism, that though 'speech be silvern, silence is golden.'

WE are informed that the Trans-Pacific Cable Company intends to run its wire along the chain of the Aleutian and Kurile Islands, instead of through a deep sea cable. This would naturally affect part of our argument of last week: but we defer further comment until we have the positive information which the *Alaska* may be bringing to us.

WE take from the *Shanghai Courier* the following memorandum of the career of the late lamented Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court:

"Mr. Goodwin was only in his sixty-first year, as we learn from 'Men of the Time,' which has the following notice of him:—

"Goodwin, Charles Wycliff, son of the late Charles Goodwin, Esq., was born at King's Lynn, in 1817, was educated at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B. A. in high classical honours in 1838, and was chosen Fellow of his College. He ceased to be a Fellow in 1847, and was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1848. He edited the '*Anglo-Saxon Life of St. Guthlac*;' the '*Anglo-Saxon Legends of St. Andrew and St. Veronica*;' a '*Greek Fragment upon Magic*;' the '*Copyhold Enfranchisement Act*;' the '*Succession Duty Act*;' and the '*Probate Act*;' is the author of an essay on '*diabetic Papyri*,' in the '*Cambridge Essays*' for 1858; and of '*The Mosaic Cosmogony*,' in '*Essays and Reviews*.'"

"On the establishment of the Supreme Court here he was appointed Assistant Judge, a post which he filled, except when Acting Judge during the temporary absence of Sir Edmund Hornby in England, until the summer of 1876, when Sir Edmund having retired, Mr. Goodwin became Acting Chief Judge; and removed from Japan, where he had been fulfilling his duties during the preceding three years, to Shanghai. During his former residence in Shanghai, he had not only taken a warm interest in whatever was for the good of the community, but he was a most useful member of the N. C. B. of the Royal Asiatic Society. His scientific tastes never left him, and he was a frequent contributor to learned societies at home. So far as his time allowed he continued such labours in Yokohama, and doubtless would have renewed them here. His illness, however, attacked him shortly after his arrival, and he has even been unable for many months to take his seat on the Bench."

Mr. Goodwin died on the 16th instant.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1878.

DEATH.

At Shanghai, on the 17th January, CHARLES WYCLIFFE GOODWIN Esq., Acting Judge of H. B. M.'s Supreme Court of China and Japan.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SINCE our last issue, we have received no home mails. The usual coasting steamers have arrived, the *Suminoye Maru* from Hakodate, and the *Nagoya Maru* from Shanghai and way ports on the 28th inst. The *Takachiho Maru* also came in from Hakodate on the 31st ulto. The French mail *via* Marseilles of the 14th December, 1877 per *Volga*, left Hongkong on the 29th inst. at 7 a.m. and the *Malacca* with the English mail of the 21st December, 1877 left Hongkong at noon on the same day. They may both therefore be expected here about the 5th; as to which is likely to arrive first, it is difficult to say, the weather at this time of the year being so uncertain; so that, for those who are inclined to wager on the event, it is almost even betting, with the French mail for choice. The *Alaska* from San Francisco is now hourly expected.

The *Tibre* for Hongkong and Europe, and the *City of Peking* for San Francisco, both left on the 29th. Both take away from the pages of our local directories one or two well-known names: some tired with the hard fight for bread here and seeking

'Fresh woods and pastures new;'

others, with the homeward smile on their faces, neglecting our advice, and going, on a brief visit, to seek, in the homes of their youth, what they are little likely to find.

The *Tokio Maru*, for Shanghai and the coast, left on the 30th ulto. and the *Toyoshima Maru*, for Kobe, on the 31st.

H. B. M. *Sylvia* left us for Kobe on the 28th: she will employ a few days in surveying on the way down, after which she will stay for some time at the Southern port. The French corvette *Cosmao* arrived

on the 31st ulto. to replace *La Clocheterie*: there are no other movements of men-of-war to report.

The P. & O. Co.'s *Bombay* which brought us the last English mail on Saturday the 26th ulto. brought us also the details of a most unfortunate accident, which occurred on board of her on the morning she left this harbour on her last trip down. Mr. Fergusson, assistant surgeon of the *Modeste*, had been suffering from mental disease for some little time, and was being sent down to Hongkong on his way home, under guard—hopes being entertained that change of air and scene would effect a cure. Mr. Wood, assistant surgeon of the Naval Hospital here, was in charge of him, with three men from the *Modeste* as nurses. During the night of the 25-26th Mr. Wood visited his patient three or four times and saw him last between 7 and 8 a.m. on the 26th. He was last seen afterwards by others—a few minutes before eight, in the saloon outside of his cabin. The watch on him was changed at eight o'clock, but the relief, it appears, omitted to look into the cabin to see if the patient was within. A steward, who went in about half-past eight, to ascertain if he wanted anything, found the cabin empty: but naturally, not knowing the arrangements made, thought nothing of the circumstance, and it was not till close on nine o'clock that the alarm was given that he was lost. The unfortunate gentleman had climbed out of the port and gone overboard. This must have happened, as nearly as possible, abreast of Observation Point, Vries Island; and as it was blowing hard, and there was a heavy sea running, it is doubtful if he could have been picked up, had his escape been discovered immediately; but it would have been satisfactory had the opportunity for the attempt been afforded.

A Court of Inquiry was held on board the *Bombay* at Hongkong, which completely exonerated Mr. Wood, who appears to have given every order necessary for due care being taken of his patient. Two of the nurse-men were severely reprimanded, as the orders given were that he should be always kept in sight. How the port, which had been, by orders of Captain Briscoe, securely fastened, was opened, could not be ascertained; possibly by the patient himself.

We are glad to notice that the *Japan Gazette* and *Japan Herald* have started subscription lists for the purpose of providing funds for a reward for such information as may lead to the discovery and conviction of the murderer, or murderers, of William Boorn, whose body was found in the creek, as reported last week, and also to see that this appeal to the public has been liberally responded to:—the *Gazette* announcing the receipt of five hundred and seventy-two dollars already, in a list, headed by H. M. Government, with one hundred dollars. A reward of five hundred dollars is therefore advertised, which ought certainly to stimulate search and bring the culprit to justice, if he is anywhere within reach. But so long a time has evidently elapsed since the murder, which in all probability, was committed on the 2nd or 3rd of January, that we cannot, we confess, feel very sanguine as to the chance of detecting the author of the crime: but none the less imperative is the duty of doing our utmost to achieve such a result.

We must be allowed to express our surprise, by the way, considering the ample legal knowledge and experience accessible to H. B. M. Consul, that the Notification offering this reward which bears his signature should be so loosely drawn up. It is surely usual to offer immunity, as well as the reward, to any accomplice or accessory, not actually the doer of the deed, and the whole wording does not strike us as being the usual formula generally used. It is an accessory before or after the fact who, in a majority of cases where a reward secures the conviction, comes forward to give evidence: but, unless assured of his own neck being safe, an informer is scarcely likely to appear. It would be well to supply this omission as soon as possible. The season, the absolute darkness of our streets on moonless nights, and the total inefficiency of the native police, are all circumstances which favour crime; and if this one is unpunished, the whole community will feel very uncomfortable and insecure. Perhaps, when a Consul, or a Banker, or a leading Merchant gets garrotted in Main Street by a loafer, some determined effort at reform will be made, and will succeed. It is by no means too much to say that such a crime as this could not possibly have been committed in Kobe, where from end to end of its well-lighted streets, hardly a stray cat can avoid being seen by one of the excellent European or Chinese police.

Before passing to pleasanter subjects, we must get altogether quit of the crimes. We have to record a daring burglary, which took place one night last week. The middle tea house of the three on the Homoko side of the New Road, where refreshments are supplied to foreigners, and called the Harukia, was the scene of the robbery; and the time, between two and three in the morning. The inmates, who consist of some six or seven women and one man, were aroused from their sleep by the appearance of four men armed with swords, who immediately began to tie them up, after the invariable Japanese burglar custom, and using savage threats to enforce silence. After this was completed, the usual demand for money was made, some thirty or forty *ryō* were handed over, but with this the ma-

rauders were not satisfied, threatening to kill the mistress of the house, unless she disclosed the hiding place of the rest of her money. She in vain protested she had no more. After questioning the other inmates as to the whereabouts of the hidden treasure, the thieves, not being satisfied with their denials, searched all over the house, under the *tatamis* and every where there was a likelihood of a hiding place. Not finding any money, they proceeded to ease the poor women of their hair pins and corals, one gold and two silver watches, and all the best dresses and clothes in the house. The business part of the night, or rather morning, over, these knights of the road repaired to one of the rooms, reserved for the weary and thirsty foreigner, and lighting four wax candles, proceeded to refresh exhausted nature with the choicest vintage the house could produce. They evidently knew something about the market price of foreign liquors, as, taking a bottle of champagne apiece, they commenced to make merry; after finishing which, and pocketing three more, they departed. The people in the neighbourhood seem to think that the thieves came from Tokio by boat, landing on the Homoko beach, and returning the same way.

We find that in our few remarks, in last week's 'notes,' about the Choral society, we made a mistake in naming Mr. J. T. Griffin as the Secretary of the Association. Mr. H. B. Henley is the Secretary; Mr. Griffin the Treasurer. Mr. Henley will have to try to forgive us. So, indeed, must many others of our readers; a journal of this size cannot, at once, have all its parts brought to perfection by a staff hurriedly recruited, and unaccustomed to work together; enough if, week by week, some fresh evidence of care for improvement is manifest: the errors of the press should be condoned. But our mercantile friends for instance, must have greatly wondered what was meant, in our last Import Table, by such remarks as 'Quick'—'Quick, except ordinary makes'—Quick, saleable at quotations, applied to yarns, grey goods, &c. A market is often said to be 'dead,' but to call it 'quick' is a novelty. The explanation is that the word was misprinted throughout for 'quiet,' and that, through an oversight, the page was not corrected by its proper reader.

But far more serious, and evidently stirring the bile of some susceptible and supercilious sinologue, was the unfortunate slip of 'pacete' for 'tacet' in our 'Notes' of the 19th, when venturing in our ignorance of trans-literation, to write about a 'choching.' So far from holding his tongue or his pen, he descends upon us with threats of 'hoisting' and 'birching'—assuming such a familiarity with the rod, as almost to delude one into the belief that he had been a public-school man. Now, no newspaper, no Review, no book is safe from misprints. Every edition of the Bible contains some *errata*, misprints are discoverable in every week's issue of the 'Saturday Review'—they are even to be found, by no means infrequently, in the leading columns of *The Times*: and in the case of any journal published in the East,—where the type is picked up, and the formes put to press, by compositors and pressmen ignorant of the languages in which the papers are written,—needs must that such errors should be amusingly frequent. Therefore, such *badinage* can never be indulged in with impunity, by any eastern Editor, however 'able'; for the *riposte* is quick and certain. Take for instance, this example. In the very journal put at the disposal of the outraged Tokio classicist, as our whipping block, of the same date as our 'pacete' number, occur,—with three or four others—the following misprints, all crowded together in just three-quarters of a column of "a Floral Calendar." We throw them, for the sake of euphony, into the form of a stanza of simple, touching, pastoral, poetry; thus:—

"How sweet to wander, where the feathered thieves
From 'splitopen' brown seed-pods steal their stores;
Where, 'apoprining' from his 'princeate' leaves
The Dandelion flaunts his futile 'sdores.'"

Verily, old Etonians and their friends who talk vulgarities about 'birching' should make sure that their own breeches buttons are secure.

We notice an announcement in one of the dailies, that Messrs. Thorn and Darwin, who call themselves the 'Famous Illusionists' from England's Home of Mystery, the Egyptian Hall, London, are soon to pay us a visit. Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke have surely been occupying the Egyptian Hall for some years: but there was a Dr. Thorn, we fancy, who showed there some very extraordinary feats, with the intention of exposing the spirit-rapping imposture. But it seems hardly probable, from what the hand-bills tell us that this is the same man. Should it be, Yokohama will see such feats of real *legerdemain* as she has never seen before. It has always been a matter of wonder to us, by the by, why these peripatetic professors of the art magic, an ill-kinded entertainment, do not perform in a Japanese theatre, and arrange their shows to suit the taste of a native audience. We hardly ever hear of a 'company' going away from Yokohama in any but a dissatisfied frame of mind with the pennywise result of their attempts to amuse foreign residents; while, in Kobe, they can hardly ever get a 'house.' Surely if a

circus, or dissolving views, or a panorama, did succeed in making a hit in Tokio, the enormous audiences they would get in a large theatre there at a low rate of admission, would pay them better than the one or two thin 'houses' they get out of the foreign community. A panorama, for instance, of the journey from Yokohama to Europe, by India and Egypt &c., and back through America, with views of the principal places of interest, to illustrate a lecture in the Japanese language, might be a paying speculation. As a means of spreading useful knowledge, it would deserve, and would probably receive the patronage and support of the Educational Department.

We commend to our readers' attention a description of Will Adams' grave, at Yokoska, which we have received from an occasional correspondent and publish in another column. This graceful act of respect to the memory of an old British worthy by a far-way cousin (we believe Mr. Norman Wiard is an American) deserves to be placed on record.

Our old friend and *quondam* ally, the *Japan Punch*, has given us this week one of the best numbers of his periodical we have had for some time. No. 4 of his gallery of P & O. portraits will be generally thought the best of the cartoons, particularly by the many friends of the very popular gentleman who is the subject of the sketch. The drawing with most humour in it is that of the Japanese chancellor of the exchequer, outdoing Blondin, by walking on a rope, with a debit and credit 'balance' pole, of exactly the same sum at each end. A painful accident to a sportsman's dog furnishes material for another cartoon, and it is scarcely necessary to state that the conductor of this Review is again the target for his shafts. We miss—how sadly—that valued contributor to the old *Japan Times*—'Naso.' Suffering in company is not so hard, as to bear all the brunt alone: and for the sake of the old 'Times,' *Punch* must not sharpen his pencil to too keen a point. On this occasion his compliments amount to flattery: did the portrait of the single individual portrayed in one of his cartoons really represent the party of which this Review is the organ, Japan would have to say with Goldsmith, that

"still the wonder grew, that one small head should carry all he
"knew."

We have the usual allowance of text, and fully agree with *Punch* in his comprehensive 'Review of 1877:—'The less said almost the past year the better,' and we must ask him to thank some unknown friends of ours, for the following reply to some rather spiteful lines on the same subject which appeared in his last number:—

"The *Japan Times* to Charles R.

(Air. *Bid me discourse.*)

"Bid me revive and I'll revive
Thy guiding star to be;
And with thine aid I will contrive
A paying spec to be.

"A paper foremost of its kind
Bright, sparkling, clever, free;
As all mankind will surely find,
When they subscribe for me.

"Bid me revile, I well revile,
Rough or severe I'll be,
Or with soft words dull fools beguile,
Just as thou may'st decree.

"We'll chop and change, and so contrive
To own no policy;
Priscilla's letters will revive,
Which you shall write for me.

"The '*Herald*' taunts we used not fear
The '*Mail*' no dread will be:
For Mrs. Gamp is always near
To pet and coddle me.

"As thou wilt be the master-mind,
The very soul of me;
So just as surely shalt thou find
I live alone for thee!"


We can only take exception to a word or two here. We trust that the epithet 'revile' will never be justly applicable to any criticism of man or measure in this Review—and hardly think it likely that after its views have had development, it can be possibly said that it 'owns no policy.'

The annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce has been held this week; but we must defer comment upon it till our next. Yesterday, we hear, also, was held an important meeting of the new Jockey Club Committee, the first of one at which the New Rules are to be discussed and settled. The Yokohama Club has also held its annual meeting, and elected its Committee for the year.

The week has not been a favourable one to our friends on the skating rink. Outward mails in the beginning of the week, then a thaw, then on Wednesday such a fall of snow that the Shanghai steamer could barely see her way out, then on Thursday, again a

rapid thaw; all these have been unfavourable omens for their amusement. The skies promise better as we write, and we hope that the Chinese New Year's holidays will not be entirely thrown away for foreign holiday-makers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

 We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.

WILL ADAMS' GRAVE.

(From an occasional contributor.)

[Most of our readers are acquainted with the principal known facts concerning Will Adams, the Englishman buried at Yokoska some two hundred odd years ago, but as we have received a few notes from a correspondent who recently visited the grave; we publish them, hoping they will prove of interest to our subscribers. To most, if not all, will be presented at least one new feature of interest.]

INENDING visitors to the site of Will Adams' grave at Yokoska, or Anjin Tsuka, as it is called by the Japanese, would do well to choose a day when there is a likelihood of but little mud on the roadways; otherwise, there are no difficulties or inconveniences of any kind whatever to be surmounted, or encountered on the pilgrimage. Even the vexed question of 'chow chow' can be as entirely left out of the calculations, as the arrangements for next Xmas dinner. To the ladies of Yokohama, this little excursion is especially recommended, as being free from the so many drawbacks incidental to a trip into the country, a short but stiff climb outside of Yokoska on a good road, is the only hardship. The only practicable route at present is by the Government steamers, which leave the English Hatoba, Yokohama, daily at 8 A.M., 12 M., and 4 P.M., the steamers leaving on the return trip from Yokoska at the same hours. And here, a word of caution; at the very tick of the hour, the order to "shove off," in the Japanese equivalent, is given and 'shove off' it is: if it be the last boat of the day and the intending passenger but two yards from the steamer no mercy is shewn. Time and the Yokoska Government boats wait for no man; on the occasion of the writer's leaving Yokoska by the last boat of the day, a well known Celestial bill collector was observed but two hundred yards from the jetty, putting his best leg foremost with a will, tail streaming in the wind and frantically shouting "*matte, matte,*" but all to no purpose: he got within whispering distance of the departing steamer, some one consoled him by saying "Good-bye John, you stopped too long" and like Lord Ullin 'he was left lamenting.' Neither can any one put off in a sampan to get on board, you can only embark in the prescribed way. At either end of the journey there is a ticket office where you purchase your (saloon) ticket for twenty cents, you pass through a wicket where your ticket is notched, and you step on board from the pier, thus obviating the employment of sampans, which is a great consideration. There are five steamers employed on the service; they are all kept in the most perfect working order, well manned, and are splendid sea boats, the most timid need not have the slightest fear. The saloons are scrupulously clean, evidently being well scrubbed down daily, the seats are wood-work, all cushions, carpetings, and hangings of any sort are dispensed with, which is perhaps an advantage, for reasons well known to everybody. The service, small as it is, is a credit to those under whose management it is placed. The scenery on the passage down, which takes on the average about two hours, is so well known to most Yokohama residents, that it needs no description here, suffice it to say, that it is lovely in the extreme. Arrived at Yokoska, the traveller can repair to Tamahiroya's Hotel, a Japanese tea-house with European appliances, a few hundred yards from the pier. Here are several private dining rooms, with a view across the bay of the Arsenal and Docks, each fitted with a stove, and furnished with chairs and tables, but no carpets or covering to the floor; which is again an advantage; and the floors are kept as clean as the natives, keep their *tatamis*. The cuisine is superintended by a man who knows his business; the visitor can order what he fancies of fish, flesh or fowl, and can rest assured it will be well served and with quick despatch. Fifty cents a meal is the charge, the table linen, knives, forks &c. are nice and clean, good bread, butter, tea, coffee &c. &c.; the hotel has also

limited sleeping accommodation for Europeans, in the shape of beds, bedding, clean sheets &c. at a nightly charge of thirty cents.

The pilgrim will need no guide to the last resting place of Will Adams, or Anjin Tanka (the Pilot's grave) as it is called by the natives. On leaving the tea-house mentioned above, turn to the right and follow the telegraph poles, until you come to the grave, which is about two and a-half miles on the Kanasawa road, it is impossible to pass it by without noticing it. Far away from any habitation, on a lonely hill top, the monument erected by a warm-hearted people to the hapless stranger who was cast upon their shores is approached by a flight of about eighty stone steps, and is therefore necessarily a conspicuous object. And now has to be mentioned what, above, has been referred to as a new point of interest. The writer, on his recent journey to the spot, was revolving in his mind a plan to have the monument of the self-exiled Gillingham pilot in some measure restored, should he find it very much dilapidated and weather worn. His surprise can be imagined, upon approaching the place, to perceive a new bamboo fence enclosing the space dedicated to the grave; the joints of the stone balustrading to the stone platform, on which stand the two memorial columns, as well as the joints of the columns, all freshly cemented; while to the right, on the upright irregular slab of stone was carved the following inscription:—

W. ADAMS TOMB
RENOVATED JANUARY 1878
TO BE MAINTAINED FOR
10 YEARS BY ORDER OF
NORMAN WIARD
ANZO RENNOKI IN CHARGE.

so that a generous foreigner has done single handed what the British community at large ought to have done years ago. But "what is every body's business is nobody's business." However, it is to be hoped that, provided sufficient of the needful has been funded to carry out the order on the tomb, succeeding decades may still see some liberally disposed European willing to put his hand in his pocket, to keep in good preservation the last resting place of this pioneer of foreign trade to the land of the Rising Sun. That he was well treated by the people amongst whom he was thrown, that he married here, had a family, and lived to a good old age as a Hattamoto, on revenues granted to him by Iyeyasu, we know; but what his thoughts were we know not; or what the motives which led to his being interred on that lonely knoll on the broad mountain side, far away from home and temple. It may have been a favourite spot of his to roam to, for here is a glorious view; the sound of the thundering rollers of the Pacific can be heard beating on Segami's shore, while all around is solitude. It may be that as old age crept on him, this was the spot where the poor old wanderer loved to sit, and think of the home he should never see again, and the friends of his youth by whom he had been long forgotten. There he might see

"The mountain wooded to the peak, the lawns
And winding glades high up like ways to Heaven,
The slender coco's drooping crown of plumes,
The lightning flash of insect and of bird,
The lustre of the long convolvuluses
That coil'd around the stately stems, and see
Ev'n to the limit of the land, the glows
And glories of the broad belt of the world,"

Or, perchance, loved to sit and listen to

"The myriad shriek of wheeling ocean-fowl,
The league-long roller thundering on the reef,
The moving whisper of huge trees that branch'd
And blossom'd in the zenith"

And here perhaps, the gentle Japanese, associates of his manhood and old age, obeying his expressed wish, or following their own artistic inclination, dictated by a generous impulse, buried their stranger friend on the spot he loved so well.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter V. A VICARIOUS HEIR.

NAKATSUKASA Taiyu, the only living representative of the house of Tamaru, had reached his thirty-fourth year, and as yet neither wife shared his pillow, nor child his likeness. Always from his youth he had been bowed by a withering disease, and nothing had ever lain closer to his heart than the hope that some day he might be able to look up at the sky without pain. Bitter to him too was the thought that the gold ilx leaf, which during four centuries had glittered over his lintel, might ere long be replaced by some alien device, and this feeling, not strangely, distressed him most on those days when he felt his disease most plainly stealing away the relics of his life.

On such a day it was that Kuramoto, the chief comptroller of Tamaru, paying his usual morning visit, asked permission to introduce his niece Taka.

A man of wondrous craft was Kuramoto Jinnoyemon. One of the first conceptions his youthful mind had fully grasped was the happy fancy of "wrestling in other men's small-clothes," and well had he practised the principle of this old saw, for not one of the inevitable falls his many plots and schemes entailed, had ever soiled his own garments, so that with an income of five thousand measures of rice and a fair name, he was envied by not a few and loved by none.

But Kuramoto, like his master, was heirless—in truth the only point of resemblance between the two—though, unlike his master, the idea of his treasure falling into other hands, never seemed to bring him any trouble. Some supposed that the great selfishness of the man made him careless of any chance lying beyond the limit of his own life; some that the temple of Suitengo was destined to be dowered with his wealth—the temple of Suitengo, where the incense always smoked, and the gold leaf always hung, before the cenotaphs of seventy ancestors of Tamaru and forty-three of Kuramoto.

However these things might be, none could say but that Kuramoto Jinnoyemon was a man of fair parts and happy fortune, as with deferential step and courteous smile, he led his niece Taka into the presence of the Lord of Tamaru.

To a man who is constrained to look at life with the tired eyes of sickness, the gentlest beauties are the sweetest. The pensive lily speaks more kindly to him than the lusty bloom of the hydrangea, and the timid pink of the pine-shoot reminds him less of his broken manhood than the living bloom on a healthy cheek. Thus Nakatsukasa's vision had so often interfered with his resignation, that it was with some feeling of impatience he allowed himself to glance for a moment at the face of Kuramoto's niece. He did not take much note of her figure, nor yet of her complexion, but he saw that her mouth was always waiting to break into such a smile as would have shamed the three thousand beauties of Rikku,* and he thought that if he could only see that smile often, he might yet find a pleasure in life.

So Taka became mistress of Tamaru castle. Some hoped no harm might come from an alliance with the crafty Kuramoto, and others prayed that an heir might be born, but all were glad, for every man in the village of Iwamura loved his lord Nakatsukasa, and pitied his lonely life.

After seven months a son was born, and Nakatsukasa, in his absorbing delight at such an event, forgot to observe that the lusty shouts of the lad differed from the puny wailings of a seven months child, so the rejoicings were unmixed, and Kuramoto grew sleeker and goodlier in his grand-uncleship to the heir of Tamaru.

But there was among the vassals of Tamaru a certain Shozayemon, in whose family the surname of "faithful" had lived for generations, and he, having twice warned his master that Kosaku was Kuramoto's child, and Taka the comptroller's mistress, and having found that his words only brought him disfavour, repeated them in a last testament and then committed suicide. Like all guileless men, however, Shozayemon was incapable of measuring the strength of evil,

* In the days of the Emperor Genro, the ladies of the court (Rikku or the "six palaces") numbered three thousand, and were supposed to comprise the most beautiful women of Japan. Preeminent amongst them all was the Empress Yohiki, whose charms are described in a well known ode by the poet Hakurakuten. F. B.

and when that last testament (which, confirmed by his "faithful" servant's blood, would assuredly have opened Nakatsukasa's eyes) was handed to Kuramoto by the coroner, one of his own creatures; one might well have said, "the roots of crime strike sometimes deeper than the reach of judgment."

"When you conquer, tighten your helmet strings," says the proverb. Mayhap if Kuramoto's own fingers had not piled the living charcoal round the ashes of that blood-stained letter, no triumphant smile would have crossed his well-disposed features, as he reported to Nakatsukasa the news of his old vassal's intestate suicide. However this may be, that smile so changed the comptroller's wonted expression, that in his altered lineaments Nakatsukasa suddenly recognized the likeness of his son Kosaku.

The knowledge harassed him continually. The sunny glance of Taka and the subtle smile of Kuramoto looked in through all his dreams like the grinning of demons, and as his disease grew daily heavier under the burthen of his thoughts, he seemed to himself to be about to die a lonely death and leave behind him the memory of an imbecile. Hard indeed was it to believe that the bright face, which for the nonce had lightened his sombre days, was the mask of a harlot, and that the baby's fingers, which had drawn him back from his willing journey to the grave, were clutching at his gold and pointing to his disgrace: but the belief would not be repelled. He felt sure that the comptroller's plot had already received the countenance of many of the Tamaru vassals, for Kuramoto was too prescient a man to imperil success, for lack of allies. He knew not where to turn for help. The discovery of treachery, among those so near and so trusted, made him naturally suspicious of all that surrounded him. A misplaced confidence would be of all mistakes the most pernicious; it were so easy for his enemies to accelerate his end, already imminent, and then achieve their treason, undisturbed. He thought of Kinya, Shozayemon's son, but though the young man was constantly at the castle, Nakatsukasa, timid of observation and cautious beyond measure, never found a favourable opportunity for conversing with him, and attributing this also, in the phantasy of disease, to the wiles of Kuramoto and Taka, he unconsciously drew the bonds of his difficulty tighter, and drifted further and further from the end he sought.

At last one morning, looking out at the snow piled on a cedar spray that touched the eaves, a sudden presage whispered in his ear that ere the green escaped from its white covering, a cerement would be clinging to his own mouth and an incense stick burning beside his head. His vacillation vanished. He determined to commit Kuramoto's crime to writing, and then to kill the comptroller with his own hand.*

The sun was still faint and the morning young, as his quick pen addressed to Kinya, a letter denouncing the whole plot, and conjuring the son of Shozayemon to be true to the title his forefathers had bequeathed him, and save the house of Tamaru.

Shozayemon had been too loyal a man to whisper, even to his own family, the secret of his lord's disgrace. The Gods had not suffered his last moments to be tormented by any doubts, and dying fully persuaded that his blood would be fruitful of remedy, he would fain have hidden from the world the disease that had sprung up in the house of Tamaru. To this end, he had framed his testament so as to be intelligible only to Nakatsukasa, into whose hands it never came. Thus it fell out that Kinya was entirely ignorant of the truth. Summoned by a special messenger, he hastened to the castle, but had only time to receive the letter his lord had written, when Kuramoto arrived to pay his morning visit. At the announcement of the comptroller's name, Nakatsukasa, drawing his short-sword, hid it under the silk coverlet, and without any further words of explanation, signed to Kinya to leave the room.

So the young man kneeled beyond the threshold, perplexed and uneasy. He had seen that morning, for the second time in his life, the yearning mystery that looks from the eyes of a man who watches his end coming, and shares his watch with none. Shozayemon's eyes had worn the same look, as he kneeled before the altar of Buddha, on the last evening that his lips were ever stirred by prayer or greeting, and since the import of these unearthly tokens is learned only by association, Kinya, made wise by memory, felt his heart

stirred by a second sorrow, as, receiving his lord's letter, he met for a moment the gaze of its writer. Thus, as he waited without, his hand clutched the paper hidden in his bosom, and all his senses strained themselves painfully to interpret the sounds issuing from the sick man's chamber.

At first nothing was audible but an indistinct murmur in which the different speakers' tones were scarcely discernible. Presently there was an interval of silence, broken at last by the voice of Nakatsukasa, now excited and upbraiding, as rising gradually to a strength that belied the man's mortal illness, it sent even to the ears of Kinya waiting without, such words as "deceit," "disloyalty" and "disgrace." But despite the force that launched these accents, they fell fraught with such a depth of desolate despair that Kinya, holding his breath, rose on one knee and had almost left his post, when there came a sharp sound like the contact of metal with metal, afterwards the rustle of garments, a fall, a quick footstep as when a fencer lunges, and then — silence; silence it might be for half a dozen beats of the heart, when a faint whisper seemed to float above Kinya's head, and immediately he bowed his face on the mats, for that whisper was "Namu Amida Butsu,"* and the voice that whispered was the voice of Nakatsukasa.

Breathless with apprehension, Kinya sprang into the room. What he saw was Nakatsukasa's right hand hand upraised, the fingers working convulsively, while Kuramoto kneeling on his body, held a short-sword buried to the hilt in his bosom.

Unarmed as he was, Kinya leaped upon the comptroller and seized him by the throat, but the other, a man of great strength, easily shook off the boy, and drawing the weapon from Nakatsukasa's bosom, turned upon his assailant. Then Kinya saw that blood was trickling down Kuramoto's face, and remembering the sword concealed under the coverlet, knew that Nakatsukasa's attempt to punish had resulted in his own murder.

He had little leisure however to think of anything but his own peril, for he became suddenly aware that Kuramoto had seized his wrist, and was forcing the hilt of the bloody sword into his hand. The unhappy boy detected at once the comptroller's cruel design, and struggled with all his force to free his hand, but the other held him with a grip of iron and now began to shout for assistance.

There are hazards that destroy the power of reason, even in the stoutest and most experienced. Kinya was only eighteen years old, and trusting as he was guileless. At the sound of Kuramoto's voice, his heart leaped so wildly that the very nature of his danger became indistinct, and all his soul was absorbed by an agonized longing to escape. He remembered afterwards that people had come running into the room, that to his surprise Kuramoto had pushed him violently against the paper sliding doors, and then suddenly released him, that he had fallen from the veranda, run across the garden and thrown himself headlong into the river flowing under the castle wall.

When all this became a reality to him, he was clinging to the bars of a water-gate before a rice-store far down the river. The snow flakes were falling so thickly that he could scarcely see across the stream, and somewhat reassured by this happy chance, he scrambled up the bank, gained the road at the back of the store, and ran off at the top of his speed.

But as he ran some vague hope began to visit him. At first he attributed this feeling merely to the assurance of present safety, but soon the outlines of his idea becoming more distinct, he asked himself whether there was not some proof, some token, which might rescue him from Kuramoto's artifice. Yes, yes! Nakatsukasa's letter! He stopped, he almost shouted for joy. That letter in his lord's own handwriting would surely clear up everything. He had been a fool. Why had he fled at all? But here instinct answered, that had he sought to remain, Kuramoto would have killed him, and accused him when there was none to refute. It was better then as it was. Now he could go back, prove his innocence to his friends and get them to present the letter—but even as he framed his design, he put his hand in his bosom, and—the letter was gone.

At the castle, meanwhile, Kuramoto's wound and Kinya's flight, had amply sufficed to obscure the truth. The comptroller had entered, he said, just as the murder was committed, and only partially parrying, by means of the brazier, a blow aimed at himself, had been so blinded by blood as to

*It was a very common thing in olden times for a noble to kill a vassal with his own hand. This was called "o te uchi," and was considered a severer punishment than an order to commit suicide. F.B.

*The names of three divinities. These words are the invariable formula of a dying Japanese. F.B.

be unable to achieve the murderer's capture. Everything corroborated this story. Even the brazier bore the mark of the sword-cut, for it was in truth with the brazier that Kuramoto had warded off Nakatsukasa's feebly falling stroke.

It only remained therefore to take all the measures necessary for the legal investiture of the heir. Of these the most critical was the visit of an Imperial Delegate,* for if at his inspection of the body, he should discover the true cause of death, the result would be delay, and investigation leading possibly to the confiscation of the Tamaru estates. Here two circumstances aided Kuramoto—the season, and the distance from the capital. The latter, by interposing at least six days between the death of Nakatsukasa and the arrival of the Delegate at Iwamura, would justify the presentation of the corpse for inspection not only in its coffin, but also packed in cinnabar, while the former, by multiplying the number of shrouds † would impede minute examination. For the rest, unless mischance selected as Delegate a man of more than usually austere morals, his complaisance could be purchased under any conditions. And it was upon this hope, apparently, that the comptroller leaned most, for without unduly expediting the transit of his official report to Kiyoto, he spared no pains to secure the speedy return of a courier carrying information of the Delegate's name. To this end he despatched a number of mounted messengers, with orders to post themselves along the road at such intervals as a man might ride without drawing bridle, thus forming the links of a chain along which the news he desired might be transmitted with the least possible delay.

The issue, however, of this arrangement, though sufficiently prompt to answer the comptroller's purpose, was a little retarded by the disappearance of one of these living links, for amongst them was Matsuyama Raitaro, formerly captain of the Shudzugatake bandits, and now borne on the roll of the Tamaru adherents as Masaki Kentaro. Sewed into his belt he carried the letter that Nakatsukasa had written on the morning of his death, and which he, Raitaro, had found in the garden after Kinya's flight.

A few hours after the news of Nakatsukasa's decease reached the Capital, an Imperial Delegate travelled outwards from the castle gates. The pomp and circumstance of his progress was perhaps a little in excess of his mission's importance, for fifteen armed gentlemen walked on either side of his palanquin, five stentorian voices cleared the road before him, and his horse, as pure blooded a bay as ever crossed the borders of Nambu, was scarcely held by two finely clad grooms, and beat his flanks into foam against two massive silver stirrups. In truth, had Kuramoto's fortune granted him the election of the Imperial Delegate, he would assuredly have chosen Fukuhara before all others, for Fukuhara's conception of his office reached not a whit beyond the homage it entitled him to exact, while his idea of a fool pictured nothing more absurd than "one who gives himself a headache about his neighbour's lumbago."

It was therefore altogether improbable that the circumstances of Nakatsukasa's death would receive too close a scrutiny, and the comptroller, confident of a happy issue, made ready to receive Fukuhara with more than usual pomp and hospitality.

There is not in all the Western provinces a wilder spot than the valley of Katase, where the fragments of thirty shattered torrents shed themselves unceasingly upon the sinuous path below, and nurture everywhere dank mosses, that roof the homes of the centipede and beetle, and hide the trail of the death adder. Huge caverns, eating their way into the heart of the mountains, breathe upwards a ghastly vapour that never goes out to meet the sunlight, but creeps sullenly behind the rocks and under the blanched arms of the dying pines, as though it shrank from the advent of those mighty blasts that often, leaping the crests of the hills, wrench the hollow willows from their barren beds, and change the hush of the valley into a deafening howl.

* At the death of a noble, a species of official investigation or inquest used formerly to be conducted by an officer specially despatched from the court. This was imperative, however natural the death or valid the claims of succession. The investigation, however, seems to have been often conducted in a very perfunctory way, and was of the many recognized occasions for the employment of that *pietre d'achoppement* of justice, "Milanion's golden apple." F.B.

† The body of a noble after death generally lay in state for 2 days (24 Japanese hours), after which it was placed in the coffin, and sometimes quantities of cinnabar were packed round it to prevent decay. In summer, the corpse was shrouded in two or three garments of the finest grass cloth, but in winter as many as eight or nine robes of white silk were used. F.B.

The road, winding round the shoulders of a huge rock within forty paces of the entrance to the glen, leads the traveller suddenly up to a stony plateau, looking down from whence on the gloomy passage that lies before him, many a wayfarer would fain give half the contents of his purse for the presence of even a mat-covered shed to welcome his halting feet. And never more unhappy was the absence of such shelter than on the evening when Fukuhara and his retinue saw the sombre shape of the "Black Cliff" bending over their path in the misty gloaming: for the sodden earth was mottled with patches of half melted snow; and a rising wind, carrying up from the east drifts of icy vapour, swept away all the pomp of the Delegate's procession. No longer did any voice issue from the numbed lips of the criers: the Nambu steed, passive in the hands of a single groom, paced dully on with drooping ears; the thirty gentlemen, girding up their loins and knotting their kerchiefs round their heads, splashed through the mud and sludge, seeking one another's footsteps, and the bearers of the palanquin staggered and slipped amongst invisible ruts and holes.

Fukuhara, pulling his wadded cloak over his head and shrinking back from the touch of the raw vapours, lay dozing in the corner of his palanquin. He dreamed that the glowing blush of a hundred charcoal logs was reddening all the air around him, and that the dimpled fingers of Somé, the fairest dancing girl in Kiyoto, were daintily filling his cup with mulled wine, while from the streets below echoed the cries of the macaroni and chesnut sellers. Presently, disturbed by some quicker motion of his bearers, he awoke to find that although the voices of the chesnut vendors were only the renewed shouts of his own criers, the charcoal glow, and perhaps the fumes of the mulled wine, were realities—realities as incredible as they were delightful. For, drawn back from the stony plateau just sufficiently to escape the vapours that swept outwards from the glen, two rows of stout pine poles laid their heads together in a nook of the cliff, and held up towards the scudding clouds triple folds of comfortably plaited rice-straw. Within, a splendid profusion of charcoal gleamed and crackled in the centre, filling the hut with delightful waves of warmth, and summoning from the huge kettle, that seemed to float in the undulations of heat, a song sweeter at that moment to the Delegate's ears, than even the musical laugh of Somé herself.

Fukuhara and his followers, filled as they were with astonishment and gratitude for such an unlooked for happiness, were little disposed to cavil at the incivility of the host's greeting or the paucity of his utensils. The Delegate himself, perhaps because he was loth to hasten his followers by waiting without, perhaps because he desired to realize in part the fancy of his dreams, actually condescended to enter the rough shanty and graciously signified his readiness to taste the contents of three fat casks that stood carefully straw-swathed in the corner.

"Poor wine, I'm afraid you'll find it, gentlemen," said the gruff old host, as he drew the spigot of the topmost cask, but poor as it is, it would never have been here except for your coming."

"Indeed," said the Delegate, "did you expect us?"

"Yes, Sir, I knew that you could not fail to pass this way, and fourscore customers in three or four days are enough to warrant a little preparation. Yes," repeated the old tapster with much emphasis on his numerals, "fourscore customers in four days is not a bad beginning for a hostel at the back of the 'Black Rock.'"

"Not a bad beginning by any means. But where do you expect to get the second half of your number, seeing that we only give you the first?"

"The first now, but the second on your journey back, Sir, for I suppose you will return by the same route. That is, if the gentlemen do return so soon, for to be sure one never can tell now long business may detain one. Business is as uncertain as a wife; always going wrong when one least expects it."

The latter part of this speech was delivered rather in the form of a soliloquy than a remark, and the tone of the grey-head's speculations about his visitors' return, and theories concerning the similitude of business and wives, was so mysteriously hypothetical, and his whole air so much at variance with his hostship, that under different circumstances, suspicion might have been aroused. As it was, the effect was only to awaken concern about the safe exit.

of the steaming wine-bottle from the bowels of the black kettle; for this, becoming under the old man's indifferent management, a doubtful event, was watched with breathless interest by every one of the travellers; from the Delegate to the grooms.

And what wine it was, to be sure! How strange and yet how grateful its fine flavour in those mountain wilds, and how, as cup after cup slipped down with a touch smoother than velvet, each and every one of the company found the passage of the inhospitable glen become a more and more remote idea! How ingeniously did they avert the silence that suggests departure, by discovering new methods of extolling the aptness of the black kettle and the staunchness of the log hostelry, and how the breath of every fresh brew exhaled some novel excellence of bouquet or vintage, till at last the sweet features of Somé began again to look out at Fukuhara from the red heart of the charcoal, and the sound of the drifting sleet grew fainter and fainter to the ears of the thirty nodding gentleman!

But even more inexplicable than the presence of the log hut and its peerless wine was the conduct of the old host at this juncture. He seemed to be suddenly possessed with the liveliest solicitude, lest his guests should be benighted in their passage through the valley, and at the same time tacitly dismissed as perfectly untenable all idea of their passing the night in his hostel. He even permitted himself to tell the Delegate that it were better he turned his palanquin back to Kiyoto than suffered the sunset to find him in the gorge of Katase, and showed so much disinclination to tap the second tub of wine, that Fukuhara, little disposed to brook advice from any, and still less from the keeper of a mountain inn, swore that if the old man was so anxious about their safety, he should either guide them through the glen, or carry his bill back to Kiyoto for payment. Strange to say, not the slightest opposition was offered to this tyranny by the host, but, merely remarking that as he had neither neighbours nor visitors, he wanted no caretaker, he left the charcoal fire and the two remaining tubs of wine, and set out at a sturdy pace in front of the procession.

(To be continued in our next.)

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. I. Can any experienced woodman, or analytical chemist, favour the community with a disquisition upon charcoal? Is there any method of getting rid of the free carbonic acid gas which rises from it—before burning, or of any portion of the same? Do different woods give off different volumes of vapour, and if so, which is the safest to use in a bath room? (Unanswered.)

J. T.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such: I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan. (In process of answer.)

B. H.

Qy. 3. Can any of your readers give me information respecting the comparative value of money in Japan five centuries ago, and at present?

Were the actual incomes of the Nobles larger or smaller then, as represented by their official rent-rolls, and have they now, as a matter of fact, more money to spend on themselves, than they had in old times? (Unanswered.)

N. or M.

Qy. 4. To what amount of restraint was a Noble subjected by the supervision of the 'karo.' Could he, for example, go out alone, or with only a favourite attendant?

(Unanswered.)

N. or M.

Qy. 5. Dwellings on the Bluff are much more susceptible to the motion of the earthquake wave, than those on the Settlement. Why so? is the object of this Query.

One would think that, considering the magnitude of the causes at work, the few feet of elevation of the Bluff from the Settlement would make no difference at all in the perceptible motion of an earthquake; for the same reason it would appear childish to suggest that the weight of the various constructions on the Settlement would have the effect of steadying, as it were, the earth's crust; however it is a fruitful matter for conjecture, though by no means a pleasant one. (Unanswered.)

JISHIN.

Qy. 6. What is 'Curling'?

JACK FROST.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

ON ABANDONING THE USE OF LEATHERN BOOTS FOR JAPANESE SOLDIERS.

(From the *Hochi Shimbun*.)

TO curtail unnecessary expense is the earnest wish of our Government, and our strongest endeavours are being directed to the diminution of foreign imports. So that, should the Government propose any change in these directions, which, leaving fulfilled the requirements of Government and people, would do no harm in any other way, we shall urge its at once adopting such reform. But such reform we should not advocate on merely theoretical grounds, but require it to undergo practical experiment. Should such practical experiment prove useless, no one would object to the rejection of the theory.

The custom of our soldiers wearing leathern boots originated with the military systems of Europe, but it is found, in actual service, that Japanese soldiers gain more advantage by rejecting than by wearing them; and though they may be ornamental in time of peace, has it not been shown that, in time of war, which is the real duty of soldiers, they become entirely useless?

This was actually seen at the beginning of the South Western war, last year. Although our soldiers, obeying the Regulations, proceeded to the seat of war, wearing their leathern boots; the disadvantage of these foot-coverings was so great, that defeat was hazarded. They at once discarded their boots, and wore straw shoes. And through during more than half a year, over uneven or level land, in three provinces; officers, soldiers, and even coolies entirely dispensed with leathern boots and wore straw shoes. Now, can it be that—straw shoes being used in time of fighting—there is any advantage in wearing leathern boots in time of peace? Is it because leathern boots, in time of peace, are less expensive than straw shoes, or only because straw shoes do not look well, that boots are employed? Although this is at first sight a small matter, it seems to us to be worthy of discussion.

The real duty of soldiers commences when war breaks out, and the training they undergo during peace is only to prepare them for war. Therefore their practice in peace time should be as closely alike as possible to the reality. So, to alter equipment used in peace directly war breaks out cannot be good. When, on experiment, it has been proved advantageous to change a rule or a regulation, such should be changed to meet actual requirements. Surely, anything found advantageous during actual warfare, must be worth adopting, and any old rule or regulation to the contrary it would be well to revise.

War is the real, peace the temporary employment: is it right to prepare for reality, or temporary imitation? We have heard of a temporary expedient being changed when a permanent institution was established; but never of replacing a permanent establishment by a temporary device. War is the body, peace the shadow. We know that the shadow is cast by the body: but we have never heard of a body and its shadow being distinctly different. Apply this to the argument we have set forth above. Besides, straw shoes are convenient in use, and cheap in cost; and, further, altho' the manufacture of leathern boots is already being carried on in our country; still the material for them has to be imported. By dispensing with leathern boots worn by so many thousand soldiers, a portion of the imports from foreign lands would be cut off, and the general amount of imports may be lessened.

If, however, it be argued that leathern boots cannot be dispensed with on account of their appearance, then we reply that this argument is fallacious. If appearance be a necessity, then cloth would be necessary for clothing, instead of cotton; and further, a better and better kind of woollen cloth would be required; until there would be no end to the expense.

Again, it may be argued that straw shoes, which are so generally worn by our people must be replaced by leathern boots, because, on account of their wearing out so readily, the total expense of shoeing the soldiers is greater than by means of leather. Should this be the case, greater care should be taken in the manufacture of straw shoes, and they should be made more strong and durable than at present: then they would not so readily wear out, and expenses would be largely reduced. Even if expenses were not appreciably diminished; but if the cost of the straw shoes amounted to the same as that of leathern boots; still the advantage of diminishing the imports from foreign countries are so great as to recommend the change.

Should the above arguments be found complete and correct, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing, that by dispensing with the leathern boots hitherto worn by our soldiers, the wish of Government to curtail unnecessary expenses will be realized, and also the desire of the people to protect themselves from foreign importations; and that the use of straw shoes, while in no way harming the Government, will afford great advantages to all.

We have no doubt that the department immediately concerned will, from the actual experiments made, and referred to by us, compare the advantages of both methods of shoeing our soldiers, and immediately take the proper steps in the matter.

EXTRACTS.

THE CHEFOO CONVENTION.

(From *The Times*.)

It has been already stated in these columns that our visitor, Kuo Sung-tao, the Chinese Envoy who came here with a letter to the Queen expressing the regret of his Imperial master for the murder of Mr. Margary and the attack on Colonel Browne's party, has now received letters accrediting him Envoy in permanence from the Emperor of China to the Court of St. James's. The first Minister ever authorized by the Chinese Government to remain as its permanent diplomatic representative in any foreign capital has accordingly commenced his residence amongst us.

The critical period in our relations with China which began with the death of Mr. Margary, a most promising member of the British Civil Service, would thus seem definitely closed; and the moment is opportune for a review of the situation and the circumstances which led to it. Ample materials for this purpose are afforded by Sir Thomas Wade's last despatch, written since his arrival in England, and published in part by the Foreign Office. It is a careful summary, by the one Englishman who has most thoroughly studied the singular intricacies of Chinese policy, of events in which he himself took a principal part. The section of the report which relates to commercial affairs may be assumed to be still before the Government of India: At all events, it has not yet been published. Its general drift is, however, to be inferred from the commercial portion of the agreement signed at Chefoo on the 13th September, 1876, by Sir Thomas Wade, and Li, the Senior Grand Secretary of the Empire, who is also Governor-General, or Viceroy, of the metropolitan Province. Earlier reports from our Minister also throw much light upon the subject. It will be observed that the true authors of Mr. Margary's fate have never been brought to justice. The Chinese Government offered victims—savages to be beheaded, and mandarins to be degraded. Sir Thomas Wade justly rejoined that the punishment of persons of whose innocence he was convinced would be considered in England an aggravation of the offence of the Chinese Government, and the punishment of the really guilty appearing all but hopeless, he declined the mock satisfaction of a vicarious atonement.

As to what he did accept in the way of reparation, as to his decision to close the case on the condition that the Chinese Government agreed to certain terms which appeared to him to guarantee improvement of the relations of China with us, and as to the true value of the conditions he demanded, we have not yet gained the knowledge resulting from actual experience which is necessary to support a conclusive and definite opinion. The following points, however, appear beyond dispute. The closing of the Yunnan case coincides with a new and almost revolutionary

acknowledgement of the relations of China to the Western Powers. Since the indignation which Mr. Margary's murder excited in Europe came to strengthen the hands of Sir Thomas Wade, proclamations throughout the Empire, which inform the inland Provinces of facts long jealously concealed from them as to the privileges and respect which Western barbarians are entitled to claim and able to command. An indemnity, purposely restricted in amount, has been paid to the family of Mr. Margary and to the British Government. A settlement is arrived at of certain questions relating to trade, administration of justice, and diplomatic intercourse. The whole of this agreement, indeed, is subject to the approval of our Government, and their confirmation is more or less dependent upon the assent of other Powers in treaty relations with China. That the consideration of these Powers should be invited was one of the conditions on which Sir T. Wade agreed to report the Yunnan case as closed. We cannot doubt that however much may remain for us to effect, so much as has been done will be found to conduce to the improvement of our relations with China.

Our intercourse with that singular Empire, the seat of a civilization which has grown up independently of our own, and is still full of surprises for us, began in Queen Elizabeth's time. Later the East India Company established itself at Canton. In 1834 a Superintendency of Trade, with Lord Napier as its chief, superseded the Company. Lord Napier's position might have been regarded by us as diplomatic; in the eyes of the Chinese he was but a chief of the barbarians who came humbly to their shores to purchase tea, silk, and rhubarb. Up to the year 1842 foreign trade, other than contraband, was restricted to the one port of Canton. After the war of 1849 Sir Henry Pottinger's Treaty threw open the five ports. Lord Elgin's Treaty, ratified in 1860 at the end of a war, opened 10 more ports. Since the signature of the Chefoo Convention, which has already been acted upon in China, four more ports, making 19 in all, have been opened to the foreign merchant, for purposes of trade or residence; and foreign steamers are, in virtue of the same Convention, permitted to touch at six points on the Great River for the purpose of shipping and landing passengers and goods. The Ministers of five or six nations reside at Peking, and the right to residence there is secured to representatives of all Treaty Powers. The exports are worth £28,000,000 annually, and the imports are valued at £27,000,000. England carries on over 70 per cent. of the whole international commerce, and, aided by an efficient foreign staff, the Chinese Government derives from the Customs on foreign trade £4,000,000 annually, no insignificant contribution to an exchequer which is but slowly recovering from the effects of 20 years' disorder.

All this commercial intercourse, so beneficial to her in a pecuniary sense, has been thrust upon China. To hold relations with the foreigner is in defiance of the moral convictions of its educated men, not merely of its mandarins, but of a large proportion of the millions who are trained in the history and philosophy of their country. Nothing has been so far obtained in China by what we call pacific negotiation. As the Chefoo Convention was conceded out of fear that if the decision were left to the British Government a far heavier penalty might be extorted by its arms, so the Treaty which marks the preceding epoch of foreign intrusion into China was exacted by Lord Elgin at the close of four years of misunderstanding and hostilities, in which were included two wars, the partial occupation of Peking, and the destruction of the Summer Palace in special retribution for an act of the gravest treachery. Lord Elgin's Treaty of Tientsin, signed in 1858 and ratified in 1860, is the basis of the existing political arrangements.

By the ninth article of that Treaty, foreigners are free to travel through China with passports; and in pursuance of this right, as well as in accordance with the memorials of several British Chambers of Commerce, it was resolved in 1874 by the Governor-General of India in Council that a mission headed by Colonel Browne should travel from Burmah by the overland route through Yunnan into Western China for the purpose of exploring the country and observing its capacities for trade. Sir Thomas Wade obtained passports for four Englishmen, and sent Mr. Margary to meet Colonel Browne. Mr. Ney Elias and Dr. John Anderson accompanied Colonel Browne, and the mission was afterwards joined by Mr. Allen, a consular interpreter who had been sent round by sea, in case Mr. Margary should not reach Burmah before its departure. Mr. Margary, provided with a passport, passed from East to West through China by a somewhat shorter route than that which Mr. Grosvenor took the following year, and by the road which Colonel Browne's mission would nearly have followed on its way into China. Mr. Margary, meeting with great civility on the journey, made his way safely to Bhamo, in independent Burmah. Here he joined Colonel Browne's party, and they all set out together for the east. They left Bhamo on the 6th February, 1875; and, on the 18th, travelling very slowly, came to the last Burmese guard house on the western Bank of the Nam-hpong,

which separates China from Burmah. Here a Burmese met them, and told Colonel Browne that all was right at Manwyne, the frontier town of Chinese territory. To his own countrymen, however, he said that Li-hsieh-t'ai had joined with a certain chief to prevent the entrance of the foreign mission into China. This Li held rank in the Chinese service corresponding to a captaincy or majority, and was charged with the duty of keeping order on the frontier. He is half Chinese, half Burmese by birth, and had done good service to the Empire in putting down the Panthay rebellion. Mr. Margary had met Li-hsieh-t'ai on his way to the west, and had been received by him with the greatest courtesy. He ridiculed the idea of Li's hostility. As Mr. Margary knew the Chinese officials from his office of interpreter, it was arranged that he should go forward and make inquiries. He started early on 19th February, and expected to reach Manwyne the same night. From Tsarai, a mountain village six hours' journey from the starting-point and about six miles short of Manwyne, he wrote in good spirits that the road was reported clear and that the people were very civil. He made his way to Manwyne and was murdered there next day by an armed force under orders from Momein, the capital of the Sub-Prefecture. The scene of the crime was afterwards pointed out to Mr. Grosvenor and the officers of his escort. It is a shady spot near the river and the hot spring, called "under the banyan trees." Mr. Margary was bathing, or about to bathe, there, when he was assassinated. Five of his Chinese servants were also murdered. The sixth, a relative of Li-hsieh-t'ai, escaped. These appear to be the facts of the case. They depend upon the statements of several independent witnesses, chiefly but not entirely Burmese. The story is not admitted by the Chinese, but they admit facts which point to the correctness of its main features and the rival version which the Chinese Government had prepared was found, on investigation on the spot, to be full of inconsistencies.

Colonel Browne, after receiving on the 20th Mr. Margary's letter from Tsarai, pushed on to within a day's easy journey of Manwyne. The debatable land between China and Burmah is occupied by Kachyen chiefs, who levy black mail on travellers. Their fees had been duly paid, but when, on the 21st, Colonel Browne wished to continue his journey, these men made difficulties about the baggage. After waiting some hours, Colonel Browne, with his English companions and 15 Sikh policemen who acted as guard, went on as far as Tsarai, whence they saw the white cliffs near Manwyne. Colonel Browne had thoughts of proceeding at once to the town, the scene of Mr. Margary's murder. But the manner of the chief of Tsarai awakened his suspicions. He went back to camp resolved to wait for the morrow's news. In the morning he found himself all but surrounded by a large force of armed Chinese. A friendly chief of the debatable land arrived with the intelligence of Margary's murder at or near Manwyne, and said that 4,000 men had been assembled by the Chinese officials at Momein to annihilate the English mission. The advance guard which was now threatening the camp consisted, according to this mountaineer, of 800 men. Immediately after Colonel Browne had received his communication the Chinese began to fire. The 15 Sikhs, however, made a brave resistance, and fortunately they were armed with guns the range of which astounded the Chinese. The Burmese escort, about 130 in number, gave their "moral support" to the English by shouting, beating gongs, and firing their muskets or matchlocks in the air. At a critical moment Colonel Browne offered the chieftain who had informed him of Margary's fate a lakh of rupees to burn the jungle through which the main body of the Chinese were advancing. The wood was successfully fired, the Chinese rushed out in confusion, and finally retreated, leaving some dead men in the jungle. Colonel Browne thereupon made the best of his way towards Burmah, and was not again attacked. Before leaving the field of battle one of the savages cut off and brought to the English leader the head of a Chinaman whom he had found killed. A chieftain thereupon remarked, "You see it is the big Chinese, and not Shans or Kachyens, who are opposing you."

The circumstances of this double outrage proved that it was committed by premeditation, and many facts conspired with the experience of previous events to lead to the inference that it was premeditated by high authorities. When Sir Thomas Wade applied to the Chinese Foreign Office for Colonel Browne's passports in 1874, he had been somewhat surprised that, except a half-jocular observation that Yunnan was better reached from the east than the west and a passing reference to its recently disturbed condition, nothing like opposition was raised on behalf of the Chinese. Mr. Margary found the people at every point save one remarkably civil. The one exception was ascribed to anti-missionary feeling. As he approached the frontier, whether in the country recently recovered from the Mahomedan rebels or westward of it, he saw nothing to alarm him. A tribute mission from

Burmah was passing upward a short distance to his left as he descended from the Chinese district capital Momein. Such a mission would have been easily pounced upon by banditti or by the wild tribes of the border had the Chinese Government been unable to protect it. Messengers came and went between Mr. Margary and the Government of India's agency at Bhamo, in Independent Burmah, without hindrance. After the news of Mr. Margary's murder and the repulse of the rest of Colonel Browne's peaceful mission had come by telegraph to Shanghai and so to Peking, a short correspondence ensued in which the Chinese Foreign Minister, the Prince of Kung, made a recriminating allusion to the recent acquittal of a British subject who had been tried for homicide. It was not till seven days had elapsed that Chinese officials came to inform Sir T. Wade that next day the matter would be laid before the Throne. Sir T. Wade demanded, among other things, that his delegates should be present at the investigation which was to be held in Yunnan. But this reasonable proposal was strongly objected to, and it was only when threatened to withdraw the Legation that passports for Mr. Grosvenor and his party were granted. Great delay ultimately ensued in commencing the inquiry, and Sir Thomas Wade several times reported that he thought he was being trifled with. The Prince of Kung occupied time in complaining of the bearing of the British Envoy and requiring direct communication from his superior in England. Lord Derby's reply was a despatch to our Minister expressing firm support and approval of his proceedings. Li-hsieh-t'ai, who was early incriminated, was sent on a complimentary mission to Burmah. Meanwhile the telegraphic information of the murder was rendered doubly significant by the arrival of Colonel Browne at Shanghai with fuller reports. It then became established that a month before the expedition advanced from Bhamo a Chinese dealer had brought information from Momein to Bhamo that a large body of troops was in readiness to oppose its entrance into China; that Colonel Browne had been met as he moved forward by rumours that he would be attacked; that the same rumours were current in Mandalay, the capital of Burmah, six days before the attack was made; that on the 21st, the day before the attack, Colonel Browne had observed Chinese reconnoitring his position; that the Chinese who made the onslaught shouted friendly warnings to his Burmese escort while specially directing their efforts to the destruction of the other foreigners. Not the least remarkable incident was this, that immediately after the attack some Burmese attached to Colonel Browne's party received in his presence two letters from other Burmese, petty officials acting as the King of Burmah's cotton agents at Manwyne, to the effect that Mr. Margary had been killed by Chinese; that subordinates of the Momein authorities had arrived from Momein; and that a large body of troops were surrounding Colonel Browne preparatory to setting upon him. The second of these letters stated that the warning it conveyed was forwarded by direction of three Chinese sent to Manwyne by the Chinese authority at Momein. The Burmese were exhorted in these letters to separate themselves from the English.

Mr. Ney Elias had taken another route, intending to join Colonel Browne later on. He was stopped on the way by Li-hsieh-t'ai and by the chief of a reclaimed tribe, who stoutly declared that, passport or no passport, he should not enter China by that road. He had, accordingly, to turn back.

The Commissioners afterwards appointed by the Chinese Government to inquire into the Yunnan outrage made a remarkable admission. They stated in a memorial to the Emperor that, according to the evidence of Li-hsieh-t'ai, the notables of Momein having heard that a large foreign force was to enter their country, had therefore called out their trainbands for the protection of their persons and property. According to the memorial, the Sub-Prefect, Wu, affirmed that he knew nothing of this but Sir T. Wade appears to have had evidence that the committee room of the notables who issued orders for the armed opposition to the travellers was actually in the office of the Sub-Prefect, who could hardly, therefore, have been ignorant of the proceedings. The papers forwarded by Mr. Grosvenor from Yunnan leave no doubt that a meeting of notables was held, and that they made a requisition to Li-hsieh-t'ai to act as their executive officer. Li appears from the correspondence to have by no means taken the initiative, but to have obeyed the orders of this Council or Committee with a full sense of the seriousness of the risk. The Chinese Commissioners themselves state in their official memorial that Li-hsieh-t'ai had forwarded to the Acting Governor-General of Yunnan, Ts'en Yü-ying (but after the attack), two letters addressed him by the notables of Momein, and had added on his own account that he was actively preparing for the defence of the frontier. Ts'en replied that he was to keep the people quiet.

Among the papers forwarded by Mr. Grosvenor from Yunnan

were the depositions of Wu, Sub-Prefect of Momein. In these he mentions the receipt on the 21st of December, 1874, of a despatch of instructions from the Government of the Province upon the subject of Mr. Margary's errand. These instructions open with the precise words with which the notables commence their first letter to Li-hsieh-t'ai. The purport of the letter which begins with this remarkable coincidence is as follows: the notables write that they have just learnt that the British Government is despatching three Commissioners from Burmah into Yunnan, and that Mr. Margary has been sent from Peking to meet them. Orders have been received from the authorities that Mr. Margary is to be safely escorted on his way. But foreign intercourse is objectionable, as bringing with it annexation of territory, establishment of religious missions, and trade. The people of Momein, who had fought the rebels for nearly 20 years, would now further prove their loyalty by excluding the foreigners. Mr. Margary should be sent out of the country in safety, but when he returned mobs should assemble and hem him in tumultuously. He should be exhorted with righteous argument, and intimidated by hints of danger.

The letters which contained these instructions were put forward by the Chinese government as authentic, and it is noticeable that they represent Chinese officials deliberately proposing to inspire popular excitement against foreigners. Sir Thomas Wade traces the source of inspiration to a higher point than the local notables of Momein. He is convinced that whatever happened was done, if not by the direct order, at least with the approval of the central Government. This conclusion, he argues, is justified not only by the circumstantial evidence collected in the Yunnan case, but by the conduct of the Chinese Government in other cases within his experience. Momein is the capital of a sub-prefecture of the province of Yunnan. The Governor of the province of Yunnan, Ts'en Yü-ying, was one of the most ruthlessly severe officials who ever trampled out a rebellion. At Tali, by his orders, 50,000 of the Panthays, men, women, and children, were massacred. Mere cruelty in suppressing a revolt is no reproach in China. When Yeh in 1855 beheaded 70,000 persons in Canton, many of whom had been surrendered by their own relatives, the decapitation of 500 prisoners a day seemed to shock no one. Ts'en, however, was accused of massacring many who were not guilty of rebellion, and he was actually in danger of impeachment for his merciless severity. Such a man was not to be trifled with. His subordinates trembled at his word. He was in possession of letters from the Chinese Central Government enjoining the protection of Mr. Margary. The Sub-Prefect Wu had knowledge of these instructions. It is incredible, says our Minister, that the Sub-Prefect should have ventured on a course at variance with the Governor's instructions unless he had authority. The Governor must have received and passed on separate and secret instructions. Such is the inference of our Minister. Orders in so many words to drive Colonel Browne back *vi at armis* would not have been given by the Central Government. In a despatch from Shanghai, written in August, 1876, Sir Thomas Wade indicated the mode of procedure likely in such a case to have been adopted:—

"The utmost length that the Central Government would have gone would have been to issue an Imperial Decree reminding the Governor that this mission from India was without precedent; that, as Governor of a frontier province, it behoved him to see that the Empire did not suffer, yet always so that the Government should not be embroiled with foreign nations. State papers that have from time to time fallen into my hands are my authority for the assumption that, if it moved at all, the Central Government would have moved by these means. What I advance is, no doubt, hypothesis, but I cannot ignore the past."

The Governor-General of Yunnan, Ts'en Yü-ying, who, independently of the inferences here suggested, was by his official position responsible for any grave crime the scene of which was within his provincial jurisdiction, was never brought to trial. On the contrary, it is amazing to find that he was one of the three Commissioners appointed to investigate the outrage. It will not surprise anyone after this to learn that the Court contented itself with censuring and degrading minor officials, and with condemning to death 11 unfortunate savages, kidnapped in the debatable land, who were feigned to have murdered Mr. Margary for the sake of plunder. The Prince of Kung, the Chief of the Chinese Foreign Office, strove hard to evade the production of the Governor Ts'en at Peking. Note after note demanding his presence there was left unanswered, and Sir Thomas Wade quitted Peking without a definite reply on this subject and without any assurance on which he could rely that the conditions which he was prepared to accept in lieu of judicial satisfaction would be fulfilled. His abrupt departure from Peking on the 14th of June alarmed the Chinese Government. The Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang, was invested with special powers to treat with him, and in due time the two Ministers met at Chefoo. Sir T. Wade broke ground by requiring either the production of the Governor Ts'en Yü-ying or the reasons why he should not be produced. The Prince of Kung

did at last give his reason. In the absence of tangible evidence against him, Ts'en could not be summoned. But this evidence Sir T. Wade declares that he was unable to give until all the parties for whose production he had pressed should be in Peking. After some further *pourparlers* he determined therefore to waive his demand for the trial of Ts'en. On the other hand, he insisted on the concessions in general practice for the future embodied in the Chefoo Convention. Of course, he stipulated that the miserable savages whom it was proposed to murder judicially should not be put to death; and in the proclamation approved by Sir T. Wade, which was to be posted throughout the Empire, telling the story of the Yunnan outrage, it was expressly stated that the evidence against the accused was insufficient, and that their punishment was therefore declined, the English Government preferring security for the future to vengeance for the past.

Before the Margary outrage the necessity for a re-adjustment of our diplomatic and commercial relations with the Chinese Empire had become painfully apparent. The domestic troubles of China and the long minority of her Sovereign had prolonged the period of forbearance. A second Regency of the two Empresses, destined probably to be a long one like the first, began in January, 1875, when an infant Emperor was chosen. Our Minister had given special notice of his intention to require from the Chinese Government such security for improvement as he might be able to report as satisfactory; but being temporarily occupied in conference relating to the emigration of Chinese to Cuba he had taken no further step when the telegraph brought the intelligence of the assassination of Mr. Margary. Thus it came to pass that the exaction of guarantees for improved diplomatic and commercial relations was attached to his demands for reparation for an act of treachery and violence. The Chefoo Convention, the document which embodies the agreement come to as to these three objects, is naturally divided under three heads—(1) settlement of the Yunnan case; (2) official intercourse; (3) trade. A special article relates to the coming Mission to Tibet. We have already published the text of this Convention. The commentary on it in Sir T. Wade's report is full of interest. He utterly repudiates the inference, drawn from the fact that it aims also at other objects, that vengeance upon Mr. Margary's murderers had been bartered for blood money in the shape of commercial advantages. From the beginning he had fought for an improvement in our relations on three grounds—first, that we had specific matters of complaint; secondly, that before the Yunnan outrage he had given notice to the Chinese Government that an amelioration was required; thirdly, that the Yunnan atrocity was but a consequence of a policy of which the restrictions embarrassing foreign intercourse in trade or otherwise were both a cause and a symptom. More detailed observations on the subject must be postponed.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
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CONTENTS OF No. 5. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. FEBRUARY 2ND, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

Japanese Teas. Mixed Courts. Judge Goodwin; *In Memoriam*.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

CORRESPONDENCE:—WILL ADAMS' GRAVE.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 5. A. Vicarious Heir.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

On abandoning the use of leather boots for Japanese soldiers. (From the *Hochi Shimbun*.)

THE CHEFOO CONVENTION.

THE HOUSEKEEPER.

(Being a list of prices current for provisions, in foreign shops and native markets.)

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 4. JANUARY 26, 1878.

Plutonomy in Japan. The Trans-Pacific Cable Company.

The Assassination of Mr. Richardson.

Editorial notes. Notes of the Week.

The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 4.

Notes and Queries.

Born to Greatness. By James Payn.

Correspondence.

Professions and Trades Directory. The Housekeeper. Mail Steamers Register Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c.			
Bread	...	.08 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	...	.10 to .18	"
Mutton	"	.19 to .30	"
Veal	"	.25	"
Pork	"	.12 to .16	"
Sausages	"	.30	"
Beef—Jap. Butchers	...	.10 to .16	"
Mutton	"	.16 to .25	"
Veal	"	.20	"
Pork	"	.10	"
Sausages	"	.20	"
Oysters	...	.05 to .10	per 100
Eggs	...	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Chickens	...	.15 to .25	each.
Geese	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Wild geese	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Pigeons	...	.08 to .10	"
Turkeys	...	2.00 to 3.50	"
Hen Turkeys	...	...	"
Deer	...	.15	per lb.
Wild—boar	...	.12	"
Hares	...	.37 to .50	each.
Pheasants	...	.35 to .40	"
Quail	...	.08 to .10	"
Snipe	...	.06 to .08	"
Woodcock	...	.35 to .40	"
Wild ducks	...	.37 to .40	"
Bombay Onions	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	.12½	"
English Coal	...	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	...	8.50 to 10.00	"
Anthracite	...	15.00 to 17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	10.50 to 11.50	"

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes, sweet potatoes cabbage, small cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes, lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery, turnips & carrots.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial Japanese Post Office, January 18th, 1878:—

Armstrong, H. B.	Marie, Mrs. A., Tokio
Andrews, E.	Mendelson Bros.
Allin, H. N., Tokio, 2	Prestileff, B., Tokio
Burnes, John J.	Place, Edwd., Register
Bianchi, L., Tokio.	Pousset, F.
Campbell, A. A.	Pigeon, F., Tokio
Cartman, E., Tokio	Robertson, S.
Carne, P.	Rockwell, G. J., Tokio
Cheesman, F.	Richards, Wm. H., 2
Clark, W. S.	Schneider, Dr. A. Tokio
Camhefert, Emile.	Shinagaya, R.,
Churchill, Rev. H. A.	Senel
Day, T.	Saito, T.
Degron, M. Refused	Sekiya K., Tokio
Eaton, G., Tokio	Schwaub, M.
Evans, Hornby, Tokio, 2	Smith, Wm.
Edwards, Mrs.	Tailer, B.
Flood, Wm.	Tracy, John
Fagan, C. D. F.	Theall, James
Godfrey, J. G. H., Tokio, 4	Tobv, Miss, Tokio
Hansen, E., Tokio	Taylor, Mrs.
Hall, Sam H.	Tarbell, Rev.
Hamill, G. D.	Trungia, Moses & Co.
Hoffman,	Thorel, H.
Hansen, E., Tokio	Uriu, T.
Hashimoto, M.	Van Peth, M. F.
Harding W. J., Tokio	Walker, G. W., Tokio
Jacobs, Frederic S.	Wychoff
Kluge, Theodore, Tokio	Wylie, A. H.
Kelaimbi & Son.	Wilson, North & Co.
Myacila	Watt W.
Mansfield	Yona, Kitchie

SHIPS.

Barque "Ariola"	S. S. "Patro"
	Ship "Sumner R. Mead."

L. T. FARR,

Acting Superintendent.

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, Jan. 18th, 1878.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FEBRUARY 2ND, 1878.

IMPORTS.—Only half a week's business has been done. The Old Japanese Calendar (still universally observed by the Chinese) has not yet entirely given way in Japan to the European. The *inaka* or up-country merchants, who still keep to the ancient date, settle their accounts now and have generally returned to the provinces for the purpose. Exchange of native currency against dollars has also been against them, and consequently, the native merchants in Yokohama have had no means of immediately moving on goods bought from foreigners. Business has therefore been mainly confined to speculative purchases "to arrive."

YARNS. The, at present inexplicable, demand for these goods for arrival,—still continues, heavy contracts being reported. Sales for immediate delivery are not large. For all details we refer our readers to the Tables.

COTTON PIECE GOODS. Light shirtings are wanted at our quotations, but there is no stock: other varieties dull. As will be seen from our sales column, the business done is unimportant.

Of business in fancy goods, we may make the same remark, and refer to the tables for all details.

IN WOOLLENS, we have only to report sales in Mousselines de Laine as per table quotations, finer qualities command rather higher rates. For other goods there is either none or little demand. Our quotations for blankets are obtainable, but we have not heard of any transactions. The whole Woollens market is naturally affected by the same cause as mentioned above, in reporting on Cottons.

EXPORTS:—SILK. During the week but little change has taken place in this market. About 350 shipping bales have been received for inspection into foreign godowns; but it is impossible to say how much of this will actually be settled.

Prices are a trifle easier; say \$10 per picul for medium and inferior qualities of Hanks; but higher classes are getting scarcer and scarcer as the season advances, and are consequently more firmly held.

The slight fall in prices we have noted above is hardly to be taken as an indication of any disposition to give way in these grades on the part of native dealers: they are kept as well informed as ourselves of the state of affairs in Europe and act with the same caution; but exchange ruling so much in their favour, they can afford to take \$10 less than a week ago for the same goods, and yet receive for them actually the same return in *yen*. For Quotations, refer to tables.

TEA.—Business in this Staple gives but little matter of interest to comment on.

Settlements for the closing week amount to some 850 piculs consisting almost without exception of Medium to Good Medium Grades which, as stock in hand is limited, continue very firm.

Arrivals come in very slowly and native dealers declare that with the exception of "Fine Grades" the stock up country is all but exhausted.

EXCHANGE:—A considerable amount of paper chiefly exchanged between the banks and banking merchants, was sold on Hongkong and Shanghai for the steamers which left early in the week. Hardly anything has been done in sterling, both Import and Export markets being quiet: the bulk of the sales in the former being 'to arrive' and the Chinese New Year Holidays interrupting work in the middle of the week.

We quote:—London, 6 months Bank 3s. 11d. Private 3s. 11½d. Hongkong Demand Bank ¼ per cent disc. 10 days sight Private ¼ per cent disc. Shanghai Demand Bank 7½ 10 days sight Private 7¼. BULLION. Gold *yen* 385 Kinsatsu 424.

QUOTATIONS OF ARTICLES OF IMPORT AND EXPORT.

IMPORTS.	Prices.	Reported Sales.	REMARKS.
Cotton Yarn—			
Nos. 16 to 24 per picul	\$27.50 @ 32.75	564 Bales	{ In good demand at declining rates, Heavy con- tracts for arrival are reported. In good demand, prices unchanged. Quiet Nominal not asked for. Weaker, owing to large arrivals. In fair demand at quotations.
ditto Reverse "	34.50 " 36.00		
28 to 32 "	32.00 " 36.50		
38 to 42 "	36.00 " 39.00		
(Bombay) No. 20 "	29.50 " 30.00		
" lower counts No. 14, 16 & 18	27.50 " 29.50		
Cotton Piece Goods—			
Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	1.50 " 1.90	1,000 Pieces	{ Wanted at quotations. Ordinary makes alone asked for.
" " 8.4... .. "	1.75 " 2.32½		
" " 9 lbs., 45 in. "	2.17½ " 2.55	160 "	{ Quiet. Small sales.
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. "	1.10 " 1.20		
" 7.0 lbs. "	1.45 " 1.65		{ Dull.
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. "	2.47½ " 2.72½		{ Do.
White Shirtings 60 to 64 reed/			
40 yds. 35 in. "	2.00 " 2.35		{ Do. prices nominal
Indigo Shirtings 12 yds by 44 in. "	1.62½ " 1.67½		{ Saleable.
Turkey Red Cambrics 2.0 to 2½ lbs. "	1.75 " 1.95		{ In good demand.
" 3.0 lbs. "	2.10 " 2.20		{ In fair enquiry.
Black Velvets "	7.40 " 8.27½	120 "	{ Moderate sales reported, at weaker prices.
Taffachelass (single warp) "	1.65 " 1.75	400 "	{ Nominal.
" (double warp) "	1.90 " 2.00		{ Small sales.
Chintzes (assorted) "	1.65 " 2.35		{ Saleable at quotations.
Victoria Lawns "	0.80 " 0.85		{ Unchanged, fair sales reported.
Cotton Italians (col'd) per yard	0.12½ " 0.14½		{ In moderate demand.
" " (blk.) "	0.10 " 0.12½		{ Do.
Woollens and Worsteds—			
Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards per piece	5.50 " 7.25		{ Small enquiry.
Mousselines de Laine 24 to 30 yds. by 31 in.		2,250 "	{ Business at quotations, finer qualities saleable at higher rates.
Plain per yard	0.17½ " 0.18½		
Striped "	0.20 " 0.20½		
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	4.50 " 4.75		{ No demand at present.
Cloth (Woollen) per yard	1.20 " 1.80		
" Union (54 in.) "	0.65 " 1.00		{ Prices for good assortments obtainable.
Blankets 6 lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lb.	0.40 " 0.41½		
" 7 " to 8 " " "	0.38 " 0.39		
Metals, &c.—			
Iron, Nail Rod—large per picul	2.60 " 2.85		{ Quiet with very small business.
" " small "	3.00 " 3.25		
" Bars, flat and round "	2.60 " 3.30		
" Pig "	1.60 " 1.80		
Lead "	7.20 " 7.45	100 cases.	{ Market weaker, owing to arrivals.
Tin Plates "	6.25 " "		
Window Glass per box	2.9 " 3.109		
Kerosine Oil per case	3.80 " 3.90		
Quicksilver "	63.90 nominal.		
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 @		
" Welsh "	11.50 " 12.00		
" Australian... .. "	8.50 "		
China and Straits Produce—			
Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.00 " 16.75		{ <i>See note on p. 101</i> <i>See note on p. 102</i> <i>See note on p. 103</i>
Formosa Sugar, Takao "	4.30 " 4.50		
" " Taiwan "	4.20 " 4.35		
" " White "	nominal		
Saigon Rice "	"		

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2 per pcl.	\$570 to 610 per pcl.	20s 0d to 21s 3d	53,50 fr. to 59,20 fr.		
" No. 2 "	550 to 560 "	19s 3d to 19s 9d	53,75 fr. to 54,60 fr.		
" No. 2½ (good medium) "	510 to 530 "	18s 1d to 18s 9d	50,00 fr. to 52,00 fr.		
" No. 3 (medium) "	490 to 510 "	17s 5d to 18s 1d	48,25 fr. to 50,00 fr.		
" Inferior "	460 to 480 "	16s 5d to 17s 1d	45,50 fr. to 47,35 fr.		
Oshio No. 1 and 2 "	510 to 525 "	18s 1d to 18s 7d	50,00 fr. to 51,50 fr.		
" No. 1, 2 and 3 "	490 to 500 "	17s 5d to 17s 9d	48,25 fr. to 49,20 fr.		
Hamaaki No. 1, 2 and 3 "	470 to 490 "	16s 9d to 17s 1d	46,45 fr. to 48,25 fr.		
Tea:—					
Common per pcl.	11.00 to 13.00 "			850 pcls.]	
Good Common "	14.00 to 16.00 "				
Medium "	17.00 to 18.00 "				
Good Medium "	19.00 to 21.00 "				
Fine "	22.00 to 26.00 "				
Finest "	27.00 to 31.00 "				
Choice "	36.00 to 41.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu per pcl.	12.00 "				
" Various "	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax "	13.50 "				
Coal, Takashima "	9.00 to 10.50 "	{ Nothing doing.			
" Karatz "	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common "	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice "	2.20 to 2.40 "				
Sulphur (common) "	2.80 to 2.60 "				

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi S.S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
* Feb. 5	" 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 3	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Alaska* P. M. S.S. due February 3.

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
* Feb. 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Oceanic*, O. & O. S.S. sailing Feb. 10.

*. The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

*. No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

*. Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

*. Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 18	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 23

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 23
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Jan. 30	Feb. 7		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Feb. 6	Feb. 18	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Dec. 21	" 9		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 5	Mar. 25	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 14	" 3		M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 12	Apr. 1	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Jan. 3			P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	not fixed		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 16			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	on or about 10 Feb.		

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Jan. 27	Kokonoyo Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Kobe	Jan. 25	General	M. M. Co.
" 28	Nagoya Maru	Connor	Jap. str.	1,260	Shanghai & ports	" 20	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 28	Argentino	Barnett	Brit. str.	1,320	S'hai. via N'saki.	" 20	Coals and general	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 28	Suminoe Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	852	Hakodate	" 20	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 31	Cosmao	Dumas Vence	Frch. corvette	1,900	Kobe	" 20	"	"
" 31	Takachiho Maru	Sikemeier	Jap. str.	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 28	General	M. B. Co.
Feb. 1	Galley of Lorne	Mc. Donald	Brit. str.	1,389	London	Nov. 21	General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 1	Wakamoura Maru	Wynne	Jap. str.	1,343	Kobe	Jan. 30	General	M. B. Co.
" 1	Meiji Maru	Peters	Jap. str.	1,010	Criuse	" 28	Lighthouse Dep't.	L. Kniffler & Co.
" 2	S. R. Bearse	Oakes	Am. bar.	607	Kobe	" 28	Kerosine oil	"

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—The Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Wells, Messrs. Schluter, F. J. Smith, J. Wilson, E. C. Kirby, Wyper, W. G. Johnson, B. H. Burns, Frank Major and 3 children, Nagamine, Katow, Shibata, Kogima, Tanita, Maurabe and Shimaura; and 1 Chinaman, and 180 Japanese in the steerage. For San Francisco:—Captain J. Steele, and Mr. J. D. Thurburne.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S. S. "Cairnsmuir," Dec. 3; S. S. "Lorne," Nov. 23.
FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Bertha Marion," July 30; "Fair Leader," September 25; "Sumner E. Mead," October 26
 "Laura," November 21.
FROM NEWPORT:—"Aureola," Sept. 19.
FROM NEW YORK:—"Midnight," July 27; "Ladoga," Sep. 20.
FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 23; "August," Oct. 16.
FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 8.
FROM HONGKONG:—M. M. str. "Volga," January 29; P. & O. str. "Malacca," January 29.
FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—P. M. str. "Alaska," January 3. O. & O. "Belgie," January 19.
FROM ANTWERP:—"Hotspur," August 25.
FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—S.S. "Glenorchy," S.S. "Caldera," "Sir Harry Parkes," "Coulmakyle," S. S. "Glenroy," S.S. "Glamis Castle," S.S. "Perim."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. Feb. 10th; Hongkong M. M. str. Feb. 3rd; America P. M. str. Jan. 31st; America O. & O. str. Feb. 11th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. str. Feb. 8th.

CARGO:—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—\$58,600.00; and 7,482.00 Yen.

REPORTS:—The Japanese steamer *Takachiho Maru*, reports:—Left Hakodate January 28th, at 8 p.m. Had a strong gale from W.N.W. lasting 24 hours, and on the 30th a severe E.N.E. gale, with showers of sleet and thick fog. Slowed down until daylight of 31st instant. Passed *Kiushiu Maru* off Yamada Harbour on the 29th instant.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Jan. 26	Sylvia	Aldrich	H. B. M. ship	877	Kobe	Jan. 28	Ballast	Captain
" 28	Oceanus	Brorson	Ger. brig.	207	Amoy	" 28	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 29	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	San Francisco	" 28	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 29	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong	Feb. 5	Rice	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 30	One	Morgan	Brit. barq.	450	Falmouth	" 7	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 30	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai & ports	" 2	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 31	Toyoshima Maru	Hubbard	Jap. str.	597	Kobe	" 3	General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Feb. 1	State of Alabama	Ritchie	Brit. str.	1,511	Kobe	" 3	"	"

PASSENGERS:—Per Am. str. *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Hon. G. Wiley Wells, Mrs. G. Wiley Wells, Capt. J. Steele, Messrs. A. H. Groom, W. G. Johnson, Frank Major and 3 children, J. D. Thurburne, Dr. J. G. Ayres, U.S.N.; W. P. Mitchell, 2 Europeans, 6 Japanese, and 146 Chinese in Steerage.

Per Frch. str. *Tibre*, for Hongkong:—Madame Castelli, child and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Morf, Messrs. John James Burchard, Wakay, Hayashi, Yamasima, Hirai, Masumoto, Nagaoka, and Muritome.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Tsutsumi, Mr. and Mrs. Nishima, Mr. and Mrs. Turner, Col. Fukuhara, Dr. Wagener, Messrs. E. H. Gill, Kawakami, J. J. Dare, Yashio, Bland, Tsuzuki, Burn, Shiraki, Katani, Nishimura, Kasky, J. Suzuki, Mori, Nishima, Repenn, Tsusuki, E. de Bavier, Takenouchi, Ijuichi, E. J. Pollard and Nakabayashi.

LOADING:—*Messenger*, for New York, quick despatch.—Smith, Baker & Co.
Laura R. Burnham, for Melbourne, quick despatch.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Bombay, for Hongkong and Europe, February 5th.—P. & O. Co.
Oceanic, for San Francisco, February 10th.—O. & O. Co.
Nagoya Maru, for Shanghai and ports, February 5th.—M. B. S. S. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. February 5th; for Hongkong M. M. str. February 12th; for America O. O. str. February 10th; for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. February 5th; for Kobe, M. B. Co. str.
 for Hakodate, M. B. Co. str. *Suminoe Maru* Feb. 3rd.

CARGOES:—Per Frch. str. *Tibre*, for Hongkong:—For Marseilles, 139 bales Silk; for London, 33 bales Silk; 154 bales Waste Silk and 7 bales Cocoons. For Hongkong, \$67,400.00; for London, 40,000.00 Yen.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—\$5,850.00; and 15,000.00 Yen.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STREAMERS.							
Akitanshima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,751	Hakodate	Jan. 15	M. B. Co.	Hakodate.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Laid up.
Bombay	Briscoe	British steamer	1,327	Hongkong	Jan. 26	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Galley of Lorne	Mc. Donald	British steamer	1,289	London	Nov. 21	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Repairing.
Horai Maru	Frank	Japanese steamer	600	Yokkaichi	Jan. 17	M. B. Co.	
Meiji Maru	Peter	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Feb. 1	Lighthouse Department	
Nagoya Maru	Connor	Japanese steamer	1,260	Shanghai & ports	Jan. 23	M. B. Co.	Shanghai and ports.
Suminoura Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	925	Sendai	Jan. 16	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Siminoye Maru	Spiegelthal	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	Jan. 28	M. B. Co.	Hakodate.
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. Co.	
Tanis	De la Marcelle	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	Jan. 19	M. B. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,343	Kobe	Jan. 30	M. B. Co.	
SAILING SHIPS.							
Auriga	Messer	British barque	650	Cardiff	Jan. 18	M. M. Co.	
Coriolanus	Cawse	British steamer	1,045	Nagasaki	Jan. 24	Captain.	For fr'ght or ch'ter.
Evelyn	Knowles	British barque	650	London	Jan. 7	Wilkin & Robison	
Fire Queen	Hamilton	British barque	769	Cardiff	Jan. 4	Findlay Richardson & Co.	For fr'ght. or ch'ter.
Hudson	Vaughan	American barque		New York	Jan. 23	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands.	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Laura A. Burnham	Phillips	Am. barkantine	600	Newcastle, NSW	Dec. 2	Carl Rhode & Co.	Melbourne.
Lombardian	Chapman	British barque	718	Hongkong	Jan. 11	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Messenger	Gilkey	American ship	1,027	Hakodate	Dec. 15	Smith, Baker & Co.	New York.
Otago	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Alert	4	541	Sloop	Commander E. Boyd
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1405	Corvette	Captain Buller, C.B.
FRENCH—Cosmao	12	1900	Corvette	Captain Dumas Vense

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon	Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements	Singapore, Penang.
Java	Batavia, Sourabaya.
China	Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan	Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.

RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

Chairman—H. HOPPIUS, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, A. McIvor Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., Ed. Tobin, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillips, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID MCLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 6.]

February 9, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

DISAFFORESTATION.

THE evils of disafforestation are felt more or less in nearly all countries, for in nearly all has the mistake been made, of unduly and unscientifically clearing the land of old timber, without educating new; but in no country has the evil been worked to such an extent, nowhere are its disastrous consequences so clearly marked, as in the huge neighbouring Empire of China: and with such an example before her, so clear, so forcible—the blindness of Japan, if the same errors be committed here, will be little short of ‘judicial.’ In the Chinese Empire, the rapacity of officials, who have had to fill long purses during a short tenure of office; the frequency of rebellions, during which vast tracts of land have been ruthlessly devastated; and the necessities of an ignorant, untaught, teeming population, which has been utterly reckless in the destruction of growing timber;—all these causes together, in the absence of any governmental supervision of forests, have finally resulted in the absolute disafforestation of provinces, whose area in square miles has to be reckoned by the million; until it positively pays to import timber from far distant places for the use of the builder, the joiner, the carpenter, —even of the charcoal burner. While to this lamentable error may be mainly traced, as their primary cause, the successive years of scarcity, of increasing severity, which have at last culminated in famines, as wide in their extent as they are hopeless of relief. Instead of handsome and valuable woods, clothing the hill sides and varying the monotony of the plains: affording shelter for man and beast, and providing nutriment for the ground—one of Nature’s best proofs of the truth that the Useful and the Beautiful are one—there is not the least vestige of a forest, not a solitary tree; even the shrubs have been cut down and used as fuel, and in all its desolation is indeed left visible ‘the nakedness of the land.’

The process and effects of disafforestation may be briefly described. In the gorges of the hills, where the tiny rivulets first spring into life, but where the clouds, intercepted by the hill-tops, often let fall a deluge which turns these rivulets into roaring torrents; here we find nature clothing the steepest hills with an ample mantle of wood and herbage, whose matted roots grasp in close embrace the soil necessary for their own existence, and also hold in bondage the dislocated rocks and boulders which would otherwise descend into the watercourses below. The leaves and branches of the trees break the force of the falling rain, and protect the soil from being washed away; they shield it from the too ardent rays of the sun, and also from the biting frost, thus rendering more equable the temperature beneath them. Fallen branches, twigs and leaves decompose rapidly, forming a large quantity of vegetable mould, a compost of exceeding richness and value, always easily accessible to the horticulturist; and of which a part is discharged, during heavy rains, into the valleys below, where it assists in fertilising the soil. And, by no

means the least benefit, the hills, thus protected by Nature, absorb much moisture, retain it long, and give it off gradually, thus furnishing an almost never-failing supply to the rivulets which feed the streams; or by percolation, give their waters to springs, in the far distant valleys below.

Comes the wood-cutter. Having already devastated the plains and valleys, he climbs upwards through the gorges, on to the hill sides, and makes him a timber slide, or perhaps a flume. Then, all the long day, the woods resound to the ruthless axe, the trees fall, the hill side is bared of its covering; for the destroyer, having a facile means of moving his timber, cuts every stick worth carrying, and shoots or floats it, down his slide or flume, into the nearest river. Then he goes; and leaves behind him a hideous scar of desolation. Straightway Nature takes her revenge. The bare hill-side is exposed to the full blaze of the sun, to the unbroken torrent of the rain, to every blast of the storm. The stumps, the matted roots, the tender undergrowth decay, crumble, melt; and, as one by one are loosed the bonds which held it together, the steep hill literally topples and falls. The disintegrating action of alternate rain and frost; which there is now nothing to intercept, comes into full play; the soil is washed away to become silt, the rocks split, crumble, granulate; landslips occur. Down go hundreds of tons of hill-side into torrent beds, whence, broken into fragments, which undergo a continual pulverization in their passage down the streams, they are carried to the plains, and supply the material for the shingle and sand banks, and finally for the ‘bars’ which ruin the navigable rivers into which, before disafforestation commenced, only rivulets of useful water were used to flow.

The consequence of this fall of solid matter into the rivers is that their beds are raised, the streams overflow their banks, and cut, to right or left, a new channel through the softer arable or pasture land, leaving behind them their old courses, chaotic masses of boulders, sand and shingle, worthless for cultivation. Naturally, this new water-way is inferior to the ancient one in many respects: it is wider, but far shallower, sometimes little better than a water covered marsh; the least obstacle sufficing to turn it, it is more sinuous; and so the river loses its capacity for navigation, and many times the area of ground is lost to the country, than the measure of the original geologic rift through which it anciently flowed.

Should, however, the ground be under cultivation, and valuable, and should the population in the district affected be sufficiently dense; then, at great cost of labour, the construction of artificial banks is resorted to. But these have to be continually cared for and regularly raised; for, year by year, each winter disintegrates the hills, and the gorges discharge material for choking the river beds. As the banks are raised, they have to be widened at their bases, for no earthwork of the kind will stand, except at a low angle from the horizontal; and so year by year, good land is filched away from the farmer by the never satisfied stream,

When this has been going on for many years, the bed of the river is actually raised high above the level of the land, and the width of the base is measured by furlongs, instead of yards: as in the instances so familiar now to foreigners, on the railway line between Kobé and Osaka; where the permanent way is actually carried through tunnels of considerable length under the beds of these rivers. Indeed, along these eighteen or twenty miles of railway, the whole process of disafforestation and its consequences may be seen in its various stages. The wood-cutter at his deadly work; the ancient river bed, dry and choked with boulders, or an arid waste of sand; the stream meandering through the plains, so shallow, that when a man is tired of paddling a canoe, he steps out and walks; the embanked river, with its *levées* in various stages of development, from the early one where the railroad is carried over by a bridge, to the later—where, as we have said, the bed is pierced by a tunnel.

But this is only one of the results of reckless clearing of timber from the hills and gorges. The rain storm, descending upon the bare hill, runs off more rapidly than formerly; the trees, undergrowth, and herbage,—and the soil which supported them, and which their roots held together,—are no longer there to retain their proportion of the rainfall; from both these causes, consequently, the flood waters are discharged in greater volume; and, unless successfully prevented by the process of continually raising their banks, the rivers overflow the plains. On the other hand; in the dry season, under the uninterrupted rays of the sun, evaporation goes on more rapidly on these bare, desolate hills; the valley springs no longer get their supply; the rivulets no longer creep through beds of moss, shaded by stately trees, or run merrily through little rifts or clefts in the rock, miniature gorges, where the ferns are trees, and a leap of six inches is a waterfall. Trees, moss, ferns are all dead and gone; the rills expire under the fierce heat, nor furnish to the stream their tiny contributions of which its volume is the sum: the river shrinks to a mere thread, in the midst of a parched or fetid waste, and will sometimes even die away and disappear, before it reach the sea.

These are the effects of disafforesting the hills. In the plains, the work has generally been done before, though here we must be understood to refer mainly to China; for by a happy chance, the religious cult of Japan, and we are also glad to believe, some innate love of the Beautiful, have preserved here, almost universally, groves and clumps of trees, which generally, but not always, give shelter to an image or a shrine; avenues to temples, even single large trees, remarkable for their beauty, which may be observed, almost everywhere, standing in solitary state amid the waving corn. The main highways are also bordered with trees, which, under the Tokugawa dynasty at least, were protected, cared for, and, as they fell, replanted. (We notice with regret that, since the Restoration, this important duty has been neglected.) But where, as in China, the plains have been denuded of their natural growth of timber, mischief almost incalculable has been done. There are always in such localities, some portions of the land, which from irregularity of surface, or other cause, are unsuitable for cultivation, and it is here that never-wasteful Nature plants. But here, the greed of the official, and the ignorance of the farmer—each looking only to the present, and neither to the future, have marred her work. The plains are denuded of their wood; and then the destroyer, mounting to the hills—as we have described,—completes the work of ill. A few short years—one may write ‘months’—and the cultivator begins to feel the evils his unconscious enemy has wrought.

They are not a few. A heavy compulsory tax upon his labour to keep up the river banks; continual loss of his land by their encroachments on the fields; occasional de-

vastation by floods, alternating with dessication from want of supply to the springs and streams; deprivation of leaf-mould compost for his ground, of shade and shelter for his beasts. He feels the want of fuel and building material; the game the forests sheltered is driven away; mast, acorns, chestnuts, and other forest fruits no longer supply him with food for himself or his pigs; and, by no means an inconsiderable deprivation—especially to the Japanese—no longer does the grateful, tender green of the foliage of spring, the deep, grand, restful masses of the summer trees, or the brilliant, changeful tints of autumn give their welcome beauty to his tired eye: nothing relieves the pitiless glare on the arid, monotonous expanse of stony hill and sandy plain; and one chief component of ‘the Joyous Life’ has gone from him for ever.

It would lengthen this essay too much to push our argument farther: but there are books, easily accessible, which go on to show how, in the course of decades, climate rapidly changes under the effects of disafforestation; and how, under the pressure of change of climate, races and nations deteriorate, decay. But this is foreign to our purpose: which is to warn, not to discourage. It is fortunate for Japan, that—though signs of partial disafforestation are already too visible throughout the land; though it is evident that the wise old laws, regulating the cutting and planting of timber, have fallen into temporary desuetude;—yet enough remain of her ancient forests to form sufficient nurseries for new. How these should be developed; how her bare hills may be reclothed; how her deserts may be made to ‘smile, and blossom as the rose’—in fine, how Japan may re-learn “Forestry,” which seems to be a forgotten, or wilfully discarded science—this we propose to show in the next number of this Review.

SANDALS *versus* BOOTS.

A MODERN essayist has declared that the ‘dress centre’ is the necktie; and that, given this one element, and a due knowledge of the comparative anatomy of habiliments,—a man’s costume may be predicated. Such an extravagance is excusable in an essayist who writes only to amuse, but an exaggeration it remains. There is none, however, in applying the principle to soldiers’ dress in a different manner. ‘Give them plenty to eat, and set them well on their pins, and you’ll have no stragglers’ was a *dictum* of the Duke’s; and his great opponent, Napoleon, was said to have won as many battles with his soldiers’ legs, as with their arms; and it is incontrovertible that, next to his stomach, the feet of a soldier require most care. Nothing is so fertile a source of embarrassment in a campaign as sore feet, and it has always been a source of wonder to us that the English War Office should cling so obstinately to the old conventional ‘ammunition boot;’ instead of seeking for some form of foot gear which will give full play to the muscles without chafing the skin, and permit the men to walk as anatomists tell us they should, with the axis of the big toe pointing to the centre of the heel.

This condition is perfectly fulfilled by the sandal; and when the Japanese, whose feet have been, for many generations, unspoilt by confinement, adopted the European ‘high-low’ and the ‘butcher boot’—for the sole reason, it would seem, that their army should approach in appearance, as much as possible, the armies of Europe; they made a great mistake. They could never hope to find recruits with feet adapted for wearing leathern boots. At the age of fifteen, the shape of the foot has been already determined, and up to this age, most Japanese drag about heavy wooden pattens, which, besides giving an ungraceful protuberance of knee, inevitably produce flat soles and spreading toes. How can the twenty-six pedal bones of such a subject find space for free action in a stiff, galling, leathern case, whose normal size, from the manufacturer’s,

or Commissariat point of view, is a question of length, instead of breadth? We hold that they have made other mistakes in the same direction,—and not only in army-clothing; and shall take an early opportunity of expressing an opinion on the whole question. This in parenthesis: the special point of the boot is of such importance that its consideration should not be delayed for a week, and it is a fortunate thing for the native army that reform can be made in this particular without incurring the smallest loss; for boots being perishable, all that need be done by the War office is to stop buying or making them, and to get ready a more useful form of foot-gear to replace the useless and injurious one as it wears out. The machinery they have in their boot factories can be easily adapted to the manufacture of sandals, and any stock of leather they happen to have may be used in this, or may be put to other purposes.

Of course, though our attention has long ago been drawn to this subject, our immediate incitement to write on it to-day is an article from the *Hochi Shimbun*, of which a translation appeared in the issue, last week, of this Review. Apart from the 'protectionist' nonsense which disfigured it, the article was a sensible and practical exposure of an evil; and it is only because it was not exhaustive—in that the writer failed to suggest a complete and practicable cure; that we supplement it now from our own wider knowledge and larger experience. The gist of it is in the following sentences:—

"The custom of our soldiers wearing leathern boots originated with the military system of Europe, but it is found in actual service, that Japanese soldiers gain more advantage by rejecting than by wearing them; and though they may be ornamental in time of peace, has it not been shown that, in time of war, which is the real duty of soldiers, they become entirely useless?"

"This was actually seen at the beginning of the South Western war, last year. Although our soldiers, obeying the Regulations, proceeded to the seat of war, wearing their leathern boots; the disadvantage of these foot-coverings were so great, that defeat was hazarded. They at once discarded their boots, and wore straw shoes."

Precisely what happened to that horrible instrument of torture, happily for some years discarded, the black 'stock' which used to torment the British soldier. The first thing he used to do, on going into action, was to throw it away. It is recorded of a private soldier, a witness before a Parliamentary Committee, or some other examining tribunal: that, being asked what he considered the most suitable costume to fight in, and which he would himself prefer; he replied:—"Fight!—In me shir-rt sleeves, and widout me braces, yer honner!" And his homely phrase spake volumes. In the case of the Japanese soldiers last year, we read that 'defeat was hazarded' by adherence to the War Office regulation boot. A strong statement to make, but by no means, we are assured, beyond the truth. As for their being 'ornamental' that is purely a question of taste,—to the European eye, the Japanese infantry soldier is anything but ornamental, and his ill-fitting, unblacked, boot is almost the ugliest part of his slovenly uniform. But now comes the question: what should be substituted in its place?

There is no doubt that man walks most steadily and comfortably on his naked feet, as the peasantry, in all countries where McAdam has made good roads, prove by their proceedings when going to fair or market. Your Irishman walks with his brogues slung over his shoulder, on his shillelagh; your decent Scotch lassie ties up her shoes and stockings in a bundle, and only puts them on just before entering the town. And a very pretty sight it is to see her washing the dust from her feet in

'the burn that wimples thro' the clachan;'

even your English tramp walks down barefooted, to Epsom, on the night before the Derby. But campaigns

are not carried on upon macadamized roads, and some protection is absolutely necessary for the sole of the foot; especially in such a country as this, where special dangers exist, familiar to every sportsman:—the sharp bamboo, the treacherous point of the cane stump; one may almost add, the spikelets of the rice stubble. The sole of the foot and the toes, therefore, must have some protection, and this can be perfectly given by a modified form of sandal. Not by the *waraji*, the native straw sandal in use on roads or paths in Japan, however improved it might be in plaiting, or thickened by use of more straw, as the writer in the *Hochi Shimbun* appears to think might be done. A straw sandal, when quite new, may shield the foot from the dangers we have enumerated, but the moment it becomes wet, anything will pierce it, and it becomes useless. A minor objection is that it will not, as made now, last out a day's march, though we grant that the Intendence could generally supply *waraji* by local requisition. But its failure, when wet, to afford the necessary protection, is completely and sufficiently condemnatory.

The Romans and the Greeks were indubitably the best, most perfectly appointed, and most successful soldiers of the ancient world; and Xenophon and Cæsar both tell us of marches that could never have been made without proper foot-gear. The Roman 'solea' has always appeared to us, theoretically—for, unfortunately, we only know it from drawing or description—the most nearly approaching to perfection. The sole was of stout leather, tanned or untanned, as the circumstances of country or campaign dictated. When possible, it was studded with hobnails. Its method of attachment, similar of course in principle to that of the *waraji*, was more secure, resembling that in use in Cashmere. All sandals must have the toe-thong and heel loop, but the deficiency in the *waraji* is that has but one loop on each side of the foot. In the better type, which is in use in the mountains of Cashmere and the Alpine Punjaub, there are two, one before, one behind the ball of the foot. They incline slightly towards each other, and the thong passes through, and connects, all together. It appears to us, therefore, that the Cashmere method of attachment, grafted on the Roman 'solea' would constitute the perfection of foot-gear for the Japanese army. It would be more durable than the boot, which, on a campaign, will never wear more than ten days at most; it is far more easily packed and carried; on emergency the soles can be made from raw hide, which is easily procurable where tanned leather cannot be got; it is much cheaper; can be altogether manufactured in the country; is by no means unsightly; and finally—fulfils best the object of foot-gear, by being perfectly innocuous to the foot and the easiest of all pedestrian encumbrances. Another advantage is that, in summer at all events, the sock may be dispensed with—and the sock is an absolute necessity when the foreign boot is worn;—and, in winter, when additional clothing may be necessary for the foot, the Japanese *tabi* may be worn, which will last five times as long on a sandal, as a woollen sock does in a boot. Some slight adaptation of the *tabi*, such as converting it into half-hose, leaving the form of the toe the same, and having it dyed of different colours according to regiments, or universally black, would make the whole foot covering everything that could be desired on parade. There is only one small improvement left to recommend. Unless the sole is thick enough to raise the foot well from the ground, some slight protection for the toes would be necessary. This might be got in two ways: by slightly prolonging the sole, and turning it upwards, or by adding a toe case of leather. It would probably be always an advantage to have the whole 'solea' made rather in excess of the area of the sole of the foot. The former is the cheapest, and would have to be adopted on service, when the soles were cut from raw hide on the march; the latter the most sightly, and might be the

regulation pattern. During the Indian Mutiny, when our soldiers had to make long forced marches through jungle, they 'razeed' their boots (to use their own slang) into just such a sandal as this: cutting away the upper leather, leaving a little of the toe of the boot, and then adding the Cashmerian attachment of loops and thong.

We strongly recommend the article in the *Hochi Shimbun* to the attention of the Japanese War Office. And if the *Hochi Shimbun* would return the compliment we have paid it, by extracting and translating this supplementary article from our columns, it would strengthen itself in its striving after reform. And the Government should seriously consider the question, which is of no mean importance. Not merely is the efficiency of its soldiery lessened by the use of the foreign boot; but from the army, its use is spreading to the ranks of the civilian population. Nothing but inexorable fashion, and the fact that adult European feet are so deformed by the use of the boot from childhood, that they are not fit to be seen, prevents Europeans from throwing it off. Is it possible to imagine anything more beautiful, anything better adapted to the purpose for which it was designed—Nature's idea of the Beautiful—than an infant's rosy foot. Who can wonder at a young mother, in her baby-worship, kissing the quivering little toes as young mothers do. And can anything be imagined more hideous than the foot of an old beau of the Regency,—callous, distorted, deformed, and writhing under the knife of the chiropodist? Happy Japan! whose people suffer from no corns, no bunions—the *argot* of whose language possesses no equivalent for:—'How are your poor feet?'

MUNICIPALITY OR MURDER?

SO hopeless has been thought the task, that scarcely any journalist in Yokohama has written of late years in favour of the re-establishment of a Foreign Municipality; for what he wrote there was but small chance of his inducing any one to read. But the murder of William Boorn should surely rouse us to action; and, though it seems selfish to say it, should that action lead to a successful result, the man will not have died in vain. Or must we wait, as suggested in our last week's 'Notes' till a consul, an eminent merchant, or a banker has been garrotted in the Main Street, to see this community rouse itself from its apathy, and clear Yokohama from the stigma of being what it is at present, the worse managed settlement in the East?

Seven years is the full life of a generation here, and it cannot be expected that present residents should have the needful acquaintance with the history of municipal mismanagement. But this history is on record, and when called upon, the writer can undertake to place it before the public. Meanwhile, as shortly as possible, we wish to make a proposition for reform. It is simply that the system which has been found so successful in Kobé should be adopted here, viz: that the Governor of Yokohama and the Board of Consuls should sit as *ex-officio* members of a Municipal Council, with a due proportion of non-official colleagues, elected from and by the inhabitants of the foreign settlements. That this body should have the entire municipal control of the settlement, appointing an executive officer—a secretary or Municipal Superintendent to attend to the proper execution of the work ordered to be done by the various sub-Committees; should raise and pay a strong and efficient police force officered by Europeans or Americans; should revive the old scavenger corps which did its work so well, or reorganize the existing, which does it so badly; should have power to raise loans for permanent improvements, and as security, to hypothecate their revenue—and, without recapitulating more details, to exercise, in fine, all the functions of a Town Council. The funds to be pro-

vided in the same way as at the Southern port: viz. by the whole of the ground rents being paid to them: the Council paying to the Japanese Government the ordinary land tax on the acreage covered by the Bluff and Town Settlements.

This system has been found to work perfectly well in Kobé: there is nothing in it new or strange; the admixture of the official and non-official elements is perfectly familiar to at least English residents all over the East,—*testo* the Legislative Council of Hongkong and other similar Councils in the Indian Presidencies and other Crown Colonies, where Parliamentary institutions do not receive full development. They are not fully satisfactory to us, of course—because the official element always preponderates, and the Governor of the Colony has great influence over the official members, who are all,—except the representatives of the Majesty of the Law—in other capacities his official subordinates, so that they dare not oppose the measures he supports, and he virtually carries a majority in his pocket. All which is distinctly repugnant to Englishmen bred under representative institutions, and whose ancestors certainly did not die in the fifteenth century, that their descendants might be 'poll-taxed' in the nineteenth. But here, the Town Council would be, not a legislative, but simply an administrative body. And many of the official members, unpaid consuls for the minor Treaty-Powers, being also merchants, their sympathies would naturally be divided between their official and non-official colleagues; and by judicious management, the non-official members, on all questions which did not trench upon political relations, might therefore secure a working majority and thus—actually, though not ostensibly, we should enjoy the benefit of those representative institutions which are our birth-right. It is hardly necessary to say that mutual forbearance and the exercise of common-sense would have to be shown by all the members of such a Council to enable it to work harmoniously. But that such harmony is attainable has been fully proved by the success of the experiment at Kobé,—as shown by its six or seven years' records,—which, though not complete, has been as nearly so as could be expected. The Consuls there have accepted as a truth, that the proper guardians of the public purse are the representatives of those who contribute to fill it, and by an unwritten rule, the Working and Financial Committees, or majorities of them, have always been drawn from the non-official element. And, on the other hand, the elected representatives of the Land Renters have always had the good sense to vote into the Police and Cemetery Committees, the official members of the Board.

One great stumbling-block in our way has, within the last month or two, been happily removed. To all petitions, or memorials, or representations hitherto made to the powers that be, one objection was always ready to their hand:—'what are you to do with the Chinese?' Now the Chinese have a Consul, who would be an *ex-officio* member of the Town Council. Hitherto, also, advocates of Municipal Reform have been too ambitious. With the example of Shanghai before us, we have sought to get the power to tax; and though Sir Edmund Hornby wrote a memorandum in our favour, it did not turn the scale. We must avoid now committing the error of asking too much. It can be easily shown that our settlements can be lighted, policed, and otherwise cared for, by means of the ground-rents, less the merely nominal land-tax payable to the native Government; and taxation is not necessary. The ground-rent is such a large percentage upon the present assessed value of property, indeed, that taxation would be resisted. But even if it were impossible for us to do all that we wish with our annual income, we could do something, and that something would be infinitely better than the nothing now done by the native Government.

There is one more argument to add, to complete this outline, or fore-shadow of the scheme. Why should our co-nationals at Kobé enjoy advantages of which we are deprived. Does not the 'most favoured nation clause' include a 'most favoured port' clause? The greater generally contains the less. Why should Englishmen, owners of land in Kobé, have their ground rents spent on the settlement, and their lives and property secured by efficient police and lighting; and their comfort consulted and their tempers spared from exacerbation by having good streets, good drainage, and a public garden provided for them; and have the spending of all this money in their own hands;—while here, Americans, French, German, and men of all other nationalities are exposed to be knocked on the head for want of a policeman, or to fall into the creek for want of a gas-lamp? Nothing but the selfish apathy which is expressed in the popular saying that 'what is everybody's business, nobody does' has hitherto prevented our taking the necessary steps to obtain protection for our property. Now that a life has been lost, and the choice is offered to us of 'Municipality—or Murder?'—it is possible that Yokohama may awake.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WHEN Pascal, to point his sarcasm, quoted in a note to the article on 'Mixed Courts' which appeared in this Review last week, instanced the difference between the legal systems of France and Spain, he took an example which, if not the one best known to himself, would be most familiar to his readers. The British Isles would have afforded him a stronger example still; in England the Common Law, founded on the feudal system, which was itself not yet extinct; beyond the Tweed the law of Scotland founded on, almost copying, the *jus civile* of the Romans; beyond the hills the Highlanders recognised no law but—well, we will not rake up the little failings of the ancestors of many of us. The *jus civile* has provided a legal system for nearly the whole continent of Europe; but the Common Law of England extended over a wider range, has become the foundation of the system of the United States and of the Australian Colonies, and has been found, when necessity has urged a change, both comprehensive and compressible. In Hindustan, applied at first only to the residents in the Factories, the law of England has allied itself to the *jus civile* and the system thus formed has gradually spread over the land. In all cases, have the tenures existing in different districts been respected, so that there are to be found as many systems of tenure as there are tribes. From the fee simple of Bombay, to the eccentric law of inheritance prevailing on the 'Oromandel coast, all find interpretation in the courts established in India. The law of England prevails; but while administering that law, courts give every recognition to established customs; no expense of money or learning has been spared to perfect this tribunal to administer the law: and though Sutte and the horrors of Juggernaut have been stamped out, all customs which do not outrage universal morality have been respected. Thus has grown a system which claims respect from Native and European. By considering these well-known instances of the adaptability of legal systems, and by studying the lessons taught by English rule in India, Japan may learn what errors to avoid in attempting to make a tribunal for the nations around her, even if she does not find an immediate solution of her difficulties.

THE mystery of William Boorn is another instance, if one were wanting, of one of the difficulties attending the mixed jurisdiction of the Consular staff in Eastern ports; and of the stumbling-block which the mutual jealousies among foreign representatives place in the way of effective police and municipal regulation. Whilst the Consul is responsible for the punishment of offenders, he is powerless to regulate the police staff of the Settlement, and is absolutely without means of detecting the perpetrators of a crime. The native police are actively employed in protecting useless lamp posts and unsightly telegraph poles from despoilment by drunken sailors, whilst the valuable life

of man remains unprotected, because the diligence of the police is bounded by the curb stone. That it has been possible in a small settlement for one of its residents to walk out of the inn in which he had taken a room, into the dim obscurity of oblivion, until—weeks afterwards, the discovery of his tragic fate recalls the recollection of his existence, is in itself a matter for wonder, if not for reproach. There is another point, too, which calls for notice, the responsibility of the Consul for the fellow-citizens entrusted to his charge. Does the interest of the Consul cease with payment of the poll-tax called registration fee? Are Consuls exempt from the universal rule which requires a man to render an account of his trusteeship? We think not. But it may be said, that this man was unregistered, that he had not paid the needful tax, and so no trust had been created. There was a doubt about his nationality; a lapse, during which the various Consuls sought, not the honour of protecting his corpse or avenging his death, but an excuse to shift the burden of enquiry on to other shoulders. This man was a bird of passage, the poll-tax was not required of him.

Again, does the fact of service under the Japanese Government exempt a man from payment of this tax? Is he thereby, while at the same time that he is unrecognised by his Consul, relegated to his just privilege as an Englishman:—the right to be taxed only by his peers?

SINCE the article 'Municipality or Murder?' was in type, we have seen a letter addressed to the *Japan Gazette* by M. Degron. Two or three irrelevant and offensive paragraphs cut out, the remainder of his letter is sensible enough. To-day he receives from us the answer to his question. The French have always been remarkable for their administrative power, and we are glad to believe that M. Degron's compatriots agree with him upon the question of necessity for a Municipal establishment, and that we shall have their aid in our attempt to get it in the manner we have suggested. M. Piquet's name is well remembered by old residents as that of one of the most active and useful members of such a Municipal Council as we had in his time: we doubt not that the French community here can furnish us, at need, with a worthy successor.

WE hope that the community will not read our third article to-day and then—lay down the paper and do nothing. A Public Meeting should be called by the Consular Board for discussion of the question, and a requisition, signed as numerous as possible, should be at once sent to them requesting them to summon it. Who will take the initiative?

That we are not tied, hand and foot, and delivered over to native municipal neglect, is clearly shown by the following paragraph, which we quote from a letter addressed by Mr. Sydney Locock, then Secretary to the British Legation, on the 6th November, 1867—when communicating to a Committee of Land Renters the terms of the arrangement under which we now suffer:—

"H. M. Minister further directs me to inform you that the arrangement now concluded with the Japanese Government is not a permanent or unalterable one; on the contrary, should experience at any future time show that its revision is desirable, it will be in the power either of the foreign R. R. or of the Japanese Government to call for a re-consideration of the question." (Mr. Locock to "Mr. MARSHALL, President of Committee of Land Renters.")

No one will venture to deny, we think, that 'revision' of this arrangement is highly 'desirable.'

THE Japanese author of an article on soldiers' boots in the *Hochi Shimban*, which appeared in our last number, will see that we altogether endorse the practical part of his essay, in an article to be found in another column of this Review, and supply him, for future argument, with various illustrations and examples, the outcome of military experience, ancient and modern. Had he confined himself to the practical question—'leathern boot *versus* straw sandal'—he would have done excellently well. But his work is disfigured by an excrescent growth of theory; and this we must cut away.

He urges, as an inducement to the use of straw shoes, instead of leathern boots, that thereby, in some degree, will be lessened the importation of foreign goods, towards

which, he says:—‘our strongest endeavours are being directed’ and that thus will be realized ‘the desire of the people to protect themselves against foreign importations’; and, scattered through his article, are various other phrases, all repetitions of the same thought. Notably, he objects that, though the manufacture of leathern boots is being carried on in Japan, still the material for them has to be imported; and he would, if he could, see these manufactory shut up; their machinery sold for old iron, the workmen and workwomen employed deprived of their livelihood, and the use of boots and shoes altogether dispensed with—because foreign-tanned leather figures as a small item in the import trade returns.

Now we must, perforce, ask our friend of the *Hochi Shimbun* one or two of the most elementary questions in the primer of Plutonomy—the science of the Laws of Wealth—which he has probably heard of before under the misnomer of Political Economy, such as:—What constitutes the wealth of a nation? What evidences the wealth of a nation? Which is the best market in which to buy the commodities you want? We answer them for him:—1o. The real wealth of a nation lies, not in a reserve of coined bullion, (which is ‘accumulated wealth’ such as Japan makes no pretension to)—but in its producing power, and the amount of commodities that power can produce:—2o. The best evidence of a nation’s wealth is its purchasing power, as evidenced by the foreign commodities it can get, in exchange for its native ones—and thus, as a corollary—the imports of a nation form the readiest measure of its wealth:—3o. The best market to get your commodities in is the cheapest.

As Captain Jack Bunsby, of the *Cautious Clara*, remarks of his oracular deliverances:—“Whereby, why not? If so, what odds? Can any man say otherwise? No. Awast, then! *The bearings of this observation lays in the application on it.* That ain’t no part of my duty. Awast, then, keep a bright look out for’ard, and good luck to you!”

WHY will not some of our ‘supercilious Sinologues’—instead of wasting their time and their brains over the comparative values of f and h, turn their acquaintance with the vernacular to some fruitful account, by addressing letters to the Japanese Newspapers? We commend to their attention,—as well as to that of our readers,—the farrago of nonsense which we translate to-day from the *Hochi Shimbun*, on the subject:—‘Preparation of the Interior for the admission of Foreigners.’

It will be seen, as the publication of this Review progresses, that our selections from the native press will be generally chosen with the intention of showing to advantage the growth of native thought: but this growth will, of course, be constantly pushing in wrong directions, constantly breaking out into unhealthy excrescence; and, so far as our influence extends, it will be continually exerted in guiding native opinion into the right path; in gently, but firmly rebuking its error. But in the columns of the foreign press, how ineffectively can this be done! To what good end can argument, satire, expostulation, ridicule be used, with a deaf disputant? And deafness and the ignorance of any common language are identical.

This article from the *Hochi Shimbun*, which—it must be stated—is an editorial effusion, is really very valuable to us at the present moment, when we know that Revision of the Treaties and Tariff is under discussion between native statesmen and foreign Ministers. For it indicates the current of opinion of at least one section of Japanese society. It is evident that the writer is earnest and honest, though so woefully wrong. Would it be too much to ask that some of the young gentlemen in the various Legations, whose daily task it is to translate such articles for the information of their chiefs, should be told off to give this well-meaning, but mistaken, patriotic old Tory a few simple lessons in Plutonomy? To tread still a step or two farther on delicate ground, may we be permitted to suggest to the Committee of the Japan Branch of the Asiatic Society, that they might do real service here by an occasional change of front. Instead of educating Europe into a proper appreciation of Japanese classics, could not some of the members find time to translate, and could not the Society afford to publish, translations into Japanese of simple, elementary, works on Trade and Finance; or,

more ambitious attempt—to render into the vernacular some of the earlier papers contributed to the archives of the Cobden Club? Surely such work would bear more ‘fruit’ than attempts to reconcile half-a-dozen linguistic systems of literation,—some cognate, some divergent,—for the purpose of translating—for common use—books which when they are translated, are of no earthly practical value.

EXCEPTION has been taken by some pedants, to our use of the convenient word ‘sinologue’, to indicate a student or master of the Japanese language. We demur to the objection, and shall continue to use the word. For, in the first place, no one can study the Japanese language to advantage or with hope of success, without being a ‘sinologue’ proper—a Chinese Scholar; and, secondly, the English language permits the expansion of meaning in such a term of modern coinage. ‘Orientalist’ or ‘Eologue’, or ‘Oriental Scholar’ would probably be the best general term to use, in speaking or writing of the men who devote themselves to the study of Eastern languages:—but ‘sinologue’ was originally coined by themselves to indicate the *species* of this *genus*, which devotes itself to grubbing in the unspeakably unremunerative field of Chinese literature; it is a word constantly used by themselves to denominate those working, on the other side of the hedge, in Japan; and may fairly be used to classify students of any tongue cognate to, or under obligation to, Chinese—and, in spite of pedantic purists, we shall continue to use it.

We trust that those sinologues who have put their acquirement of difficult languages to the practical use of giving us ‘dry light’ in the shape of dictionaries and grammars; or ‘fruit’ in histories, archæological works, intelligible records of travel, or descriptions of the manners and customs, superstitions, cults, ceremonials, costume, trades and manufactures of China and Japan—or who have conversely, and more generously, because with no hope of fee or reward, given to the Chinese and Japanese our Scriptures, and classical text books on various subjects, in their own vernacular—we trust that none of these will fall into the error of imagining that our satire is directed against them. To such the greatest respect is due and is universally paid. Such names as Legge, Morrison, Davis, Huc, Williams, Hepburn, will never be mentioned otherwise than reverentially in this Review. But the ‘supercilious sinologue’ who pitches on a misprint, and gloats over an omitted accent; whose review of a brother student’s book is a catalogue of his omissions of accents or insertions of superfluous dots; who reprobates almost as crimes, methods of spelling names of men and places, which, six months before, he was perfectly content to use himself—this is the sinologue for whom we entertain contempt, as a more than usually useless creature, because, having acquired a power, he puts it to a petty use. He is the bird that can sing, and will only whistle. And to him we shall have not the least hesitation in addressing, on occasion, the objectionable ‘tace’—*maskee* (another barbarism) his futile anger at our ‘unpardonable rudeness.’

FEW subjects of so slight moment have been so fully discussed as that of Boots, which we have taken as the text of one of our essays this week. Since the days when Robert the Horned first pointed the pikes of his crackowes,—or those of Richard II. when men used to tie their twisted shoe-toes to their knees by chains of gold or silver,—or the epoch when, as Chaucer tells us, people cut copies of the tracery of Late Decorated Church windows in their upper leathers,—and passing the only comfortable period, the 16th century, when the shoe was fully expanded and gave free play to the toes;—down to the era of deep-thinking Germany, and the somewhat smoky lucubrations of the great Professor Teufelsdröckh, foot gear has evoked clerical anathema, has had fulminated against it papal bulls, has been excommunicated, descanted on in philosophic essay and legislated for by Act of Parliament; and, until recently, slovenly old gentlemen and comic nigger melodists who wore boots with a superfluity of turned up leather at their toes, were perhaps violating the laws of the land; for an unrepealed statute was till then in existence, forbidding, under pain of due fine or imprisonment, the wearing of boots with toes turned up more than two inches. What tyranny! A poll-tax is bad enough, but this counts heads only—but a penalty on boots

'uplifted like the petal of a flower' would of course be indicted in duplicate. One-legged Greenwich or Chelsea pensioners would, in such a case have indeed an advantage over their contemporaries.

WHILE this number of the *Japan Times* is being made up for the press, we receive the *Gazette*, with a letter in it from 'Municeps,' containing an alternative proposition to that which we make, ourselves, in another column. This he divides into five heads, as follows:—

- 1.—"That a meeting should be secured of a representative member of at least five of the chief nationalities resident in Japan.
- 2.—"That the whole question of the present system of Japanese municipal direction should be prepared in the form of a paper to be laid before the meeting; and that a second paper, embodying the outlines, and such details as may suggest themselves, of the proposed reformation should also be drawn up for the information of the preliminary meeting.
- 3.—"That the meeting should frame certain resolutions setting forth reasons why the present system should be abandoned and another adopted; and that then, if necessary, a public meeting should be called for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of the community.
- 4.—"That the resolutions passed by the meeting should deal, in a concise yet comprehensive manner, with the question of finance; and that they should leave nothing in doubt in respect to the advantages to be derived from the new system, and the liabilities, if any, to be incurred under it in addition to ground rent.
- 5.—"That when the wishes of the majority are ascertained, the members of the first Committee should wait upon the proper authorities to support the request of the community for the establishment of a Municipal Council."

He refers to the failure of an attempt made, a year or two ago, to get a *quorum* for a Public Meeting, to consider the subject of Municipal Reform: and predicts a similar failure on the present occasion. 'Municeps' writes with an evident knowledge of his subject; but we venture to suggest that there was no such stimulant then as an undiscovered murderer to spur the community into action: and also to ask him how he would have his first clause carried into effect? Who is to elect the 'representative member' of each of the five nationalities who are to form the preliminary committee; and who is to prepare the 'papers' to be laid before this committee on the occasion of their first meeting?

We have the interest of this community so much at heart; we take—from old associations—so great an interest in the subject of Municipal Reform; and we are so deeply impressed with the conviction that something must be done, and done at once;—that we should have no hesitation in abandoning our own proposal in favour of any other which seemed likely to attain sooner the common object. If 'Municeps' will communicate personally with the conductor of this Review, it may be possible for us to give additional proof to the adage that two heads are better than one.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

OF the three home mails nearly due when we issued our last number, the *Alaska*, from San Francisco, was the first to arrive, on the 5th inst., followed at intervals of a few hours, first by the P. & O. steamer *Malacca* with the English mail of the 21st December, and then by the M. M. Co.'s *Volga*, bringing us London

dates of the 14th idem, the English steamer four days ahead of her contract time, the Frenchman two days behind his.

As for the *Alaska*, she left San Francisco on the 3rd of January and consequently took thirty-three days coming across. She is a most remarkably strong-built and comfortable boat, but she belongs to the past generation of steamers, and we would recommend the Pacific Mail Company to place her in their coast line. For the *City of Peking* and *City of Tokio* to make fast passages between ports, and then be followed by such sluggards as the *China* and the *Alaska*, robs an efficient ocean postal service of much of the praise which is justly its due. The usual China and coast steamers have arrived and departed, and an inward and outward mail from Hakodate have come and gone. It would seem that the Mitsui Bishi Company had determined on a more regular service to the Northern ports than heretofore, which is to be commended, not that there is much of a 'roaring trade' carried on between here and the Northern Islands, but that it is so satisfactory to know that the service is there if required. No homeward mail has necessitated the burning of the midnight kerosene up to the time of our going to press, but the *Oceanic* is advertised to leave for America with the mails for Europe, &c. on the 10th inst. As far as cargo is concerned, we believe she could leave on Saturday morning; but anyhow, as she goes on Saturday night or Sunday morning, there will be none of that desecration of the Sabbath which we were thinking about denouncing.

We ought not, while recording the movements of the mail steamers, to fail to note that the *Oceanic* made the trip up from Hongkong in five days and seventeen hours. Coming up against the monsoon, this is splendid time, and shows the advantage which these large, long steamers have over a vessel like the old *Bombay* (now happily taken off the line) and which, in the Formosa channel, for instance, would lose a couple of days dancing about 'like a billy-goat in a furze-bush'—to use a happy simile furnished to us by a nautical friend.

But on a long sea line, like the Pacific voyage, it is a doubtful question—(not in the least degree doubtful to the writer, as our readers will see presently) whether any special advantage is to be got from speed. What constitutes Happiness? Excitement, hurry, rapid motion? Certainly not. Rest, repose of body, freedom of care, from sense of responsibility, from anxiety—a healthfully quiet mind. Now on such a vessel as the *Oceanic*, a passenger can hardly fail to identify himself with the ship and her reputation, he shares the anxiety of her officers that she should make a faster trip than her last, or should beat some rival steamer; that very reprehensible practice, betting on the extent of the day's run, is encouraged; and when the sun is 'taken' at noon and the lat. and long. ascertained, the dreadful announcement that she has only made 385 miles, instead of 390, disturbs every body's digestion. Then again, every thing is sacrificed to speed; such a ship is almost always a screw; long, narrow and low, she rolls, gets her decks wet, has her galley fire put out now and then, and inflicts all sorts of minor miseries on her passengers. But her main fault is that she goes at such a pace that those on board of her have no time to get acquainted with each other, or to enjoy each other's society. Why, 'tis hardly worth while unpacking your clothes, far less unbosoming yourself!

Telegraphic communication having been interrupted, we have had no later news from Europe since the date of our last, until Thursday afternoon, when from China we got some of M. Reuter's messages. They tell us nothing that we did not know. Peace is clearly being arranged, though one message says that the Porte had no official notice of an armistice having been signed. No explanation is given of the mysterious report of Lord Derby's resignation, which is, to say the least of it (with Mr. Bantam) 're-markable'; nor is any fresh light thrown on the bare announcements made some days back indicative of Austria, France and Italy having united with England in a joint policy.

How difficult it is to refrain from writing on the 'situation in Europe'! And yet how little to the purpose we should write, if we indulged in the easy task. And how our local subscribers would bless us! As for our readers at home—

Changes are to occur here in high place. General Van Buren's immediate return to Yokohama is announced, where his numerous friends will be very glad to see him. What a valuable member he will be of the new Municipal Council. Mr. Russell Robertson's approaching departure on leave is also announced: he will go as soon as all British subjects have paid up their 'poll-tax.' And Don Emilio Ojeda, First Secretary of the Spanish Legation, has the enormous slice of good fortune sent to him of being ordered to Rome. The usual few gaps in our private circles are being made by the outgoing mails, and we hear of the approaching return of one of the first pioneers of trade in Japan—but these changes concern their business and private friends, and not the public.

A short story by M. Rudolph Lindau, translated from his bro-

ther's paper *Die Gegenwert*, has appeared in the *Herald*. The scene as usual, is laid in Japan and the hero is an English merchant. We regret that we have not space to say something anent this, and about translations generally: but we are obliged to be brief. There is only one point, the finish, which we must comment on slightly. The poor man, having lost all his money and owing seven thousand odd dollars, breaks down and dies of a broken heart. Why could he not have gone on living and working till he had paid it? If there were many men of 'Mr. Cooper's' fibre here, what a terrible mortality there would be in mercantile circles in Japan.

Un secret de Polichinelle! We have taken, as an extract this week, a beautiful piece of writing by one of our best English writers. And we have not given his name! We expect to be accused of plagiarism now, as well as threatened with the birch for false Latin. We trust none of our readers will betray our confidence.

CORRESPONDENCE.

 We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.

To the Editor of the 'Japan Times.'

Dear Sir.

Will you allow me to correct two errors which have, I see, crept into the foot-notes of Chap. V. of "The Times of Taiko."

1st.—The three thousand ladies of Rikkin ought to be described as "the most beautiful women of China," not 'Japan.'

2nd.—The formula "Namu Amida Butsu" is an invocation to two divinities not three.

I am

Yours truly

F. Brinkley.

Tokio, 5th February, 1878.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such? I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan.

(In process of answer.)

B. H.

Qy. 3. Can any of your readers give me information respecting the comparative value of money in Japan five centuries ago, and at present?

Were the actual incomes of the Nobles larger or smaller than as represented by their official rent-rolls, and have they now, as a matter of fact, more money to spend on themselves, than they had in old times? (Unanswered.)

N. or M.

Qy. 4. To what amount of restraint was a Noble subjected by the supervision of the 'karo.' Could he, for example, go out alone, or with only a favourite attendant? (Unanswered.)

N. or M.

NOTE II. CURLING.

CURLING is a game played upon ice, and is peculiar to Scotland, or rather to Scotchmen; for whithersoever Scotchmen emigrate, and whither do they not?—if ice is attainable, there Curling may be had. As good a short description as can be given of it is:—that it is the good old English game of bowls played upon ice, with stones instead of wooden bowls, with a fixed, instead of a moveable 'jack' and with the additional scientific advantage that a 'bias' can be given to the stone to either side, and modified at the will of the curler, by his method of delivery; instead of the player having to depend, as in bowls, upon the mere dead 'bias' of lead put into his bowl by the maker. But some there may be so sunk in ignorance as not to know 'bowls,' except in its cramped, degenerate, form in a 'bowling alley'—which is quite another thing; so a more detailed description of Curling may be deemed desirable.

To give it then: an expanse of ice, some sixty yards by six, is first swept clear of snow; and this should be carefully done, and so as to leave no uneven little lumps detached from boot-heels, which would interfere with the passage of the curling stones. It is convenient to bank the snow a little at each end. On this 'rink,' at two spots, one at each end of it, and forty-two yards apart, the point of one leg of a large pair of wooden compasses, (such as sergeants use when drilling 'awkward squads' to measure the men's steps,) is set, and with the other point are described two or three concentric circles, the inner a yard, the outer four yards in diameter. These circles are for convenience of measuring. In the centre of each circle is set up a small wooden pin, like an exaggerated chess pawn, called the 'tee.' Twelve yards from the 'tee' down towards the centre of the 'rink' is drawn a line across it, called the 'hog line,' and six yards behind each 'tee' is drawn another, called the 'base' or 'roaring-line.' Then the 'rink' is ready for use. The implements required are:—1°, for each player, two 'curling-stones' which weigh from thirty to forty pounds each, which are very like a flattish cheese in shape, (exactly like the 'cheeses' we used to make out of marbles when schoolboys) and which are, for choice, made from pieces of Ailsa Craig, but which may be made from any granite or other stone which will take a high polish. There are as many fashions in curling stones as there are in coats: and there are dandies in each department: but when the writer last played curling, the latest approach to perfection was an Ailsa Craig stone, with the slightest, hardly perceptible departure from the absolute plane, in the direction of the sphere applied to the bottom of the stone. In the hand of a 'deacon of the craft,' such a model could be propelled with greater certainty and power to its mark, than one resting on a base which was absolutely flat. The means of propulsion is by a handle which rises from the upper face of the cheese, so shaped and placed that, when grasped, the knuckles of your four fingers almost touch the stone. 2°, for each player a broom, made of gorse, the use of which is to sweep from before an advancing stone any small particles of snow or crushed ice which might stop its way:—and 3°, a couple of 'cramp plates,' pieces of thin roughened iron, on which the players stand when delivering their stones. These, I believe have now altogether superseded the old 'cramps' or 'sparrow bills,' which used to be fixed upon the players' boots. In an adjacent hut, or on the pile of gorse or 'broom,' repose a basket of outcake, with a glass without a foot, and a fat stone bottle of whiskey; and the rink is ready for the curlers.

Probably the best way that can be chosen to make oneself understood by those unhappy readers of the *Japan Times* who have never curled, is to describe an imaginary game; or rather, to draw upon memory for a description of a real one played ah! how many years ago! before I crossed the Line, and learnt that ice was a necessary of life, and that Christmas festivities might be utterly marred by its absence, claret-cup being undrinkable, and butter so losing its consistence that it might be spread on bread with a camel's-hair pencil!

(To be continued in our next.)

(We are extremely sorry to interrupt our correspondent in his interesting Note, but pressure on our space compels us to hold over his account of a day's curling till next week. As Wednesday last was the coldest day we have had this season, and it is freezing hard as we write, we may fairly hope the ice will bear as well next Saturday as it promises to do to-day.—Ed. J. T.)

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GYEMON.

Chapter VI. A VICARIOUS DELEGATE.

AS for the Delegate's men-at-arms and the other members of his suite, they carried away from the Kokuseki inn, unequivocal evidence of its hospitality; for, though a few wrapped their hoods about their heads and made some

show of adjusting their rain-coats, the main part, despising all such precaution, gladly offered their flushed faces to the buffets of the drifting mists, and staggered merrily off, laughing uproariously at each other's muddy mishaps, or breaking into snatches of song that came mockingly back to them from the rocky reaches of the glen. But soon the road, sometimes overhanging abysses, where nothing but fog and darkness was visible, sometimes retreating into quiet little spring-fed nooks, descended rapidly and yet more rapidly, offering but scant security to the erring feet of the thirty gentlemen. The roar of the snow-swollen cataracts, muffled now by some massive barrier of cliff, broke out anon with a startling din; and as each step left the ruddy fire and warm wine of the hostelry farther and farther behind, gaunt trees and half withered shrubs twined themselves more and more thickly over the narrow pathway. Gradually the weird desolation of the prospect, and the disordered tumult of tempest and torrent, chilled the careless laugh and checked the half finished song on the lips of escort and equerry, till at last, those in front pausing, and those behind hastening, the whole procession shrunk together, and crept silently through the gloom.

The wind had by this time gathered a steady force, and was pushing the raw air into every corner and crevice of the glen, while large drops of rain and sleet fell heavily among the half melted snow and dimpled the face of the slimy mud. It was impossible to exclude that bitter vapour. In vain the Delegate hid himself away among his cushions and wrappers; colder and colder grew the air, and at every breath he inhaled, the wind seemed to rush down his throat and tear his heart with an icy grip, till at last he gathered his feet under him, and bowing his head upon his knees, almost groaned aloud. They had now reached the very depths of the glen, and were so encircled by mist and gloom, that under any other circumstances a moment's halt would have been intolerable, yet Fukuhara's agony was so keen that he had opened his mouth to call for aid, when suddenly two of his bearers, reeling forward, fell on the ground, and instead of attempting to rise, lay writhing and twisting in the mud. Fukuhara had scarcely time to observe that more than half of his followers were staggering like drunken men, before he heard a sound of voices coming, as it were, from the mists overhead, and bitterly then did he curse that halt on the plateau of the "Black Rock" for he knew that the wine had been poisoned, and that he had seen Somé's face for the last time in the pictures of the charcoal fire.

Not one of the thirty gentlemen was capable of drawing his sword. Like the Delegate, they had apparently struggled to the last against the effects of the poison, but now, some prostrate, some bent double as they stood, they were all so occupied with the consciousness of coming death, that they scarcely recognised their host of the plateau in the leader of the bandits who now swarmed down the rocks on either side of the road. Full thirty years of his age had the host shaken off since he set out as the Delegate's guide, and the words that he now addressed to Fukuhara had no sound of decrepitude.

"Sir," he said, coming close to the palanquin, "little as you will value my apologies, I am none the less constrained to make them. I sincerely regret this deed, which, for the rest, will no doubt be one day amply avenged." Then addressing the Delegate's half unconscious followers, "Gentlemen," he cried, "pray excuse the indignity we are obliged to put upon you, but we have imperative need of your clothes. My men here will assist you to disrobe."

A pleasant night and a pleasant place, in truth, for such a performance, but even a naked encounter with the icy wind could scarcely enhance the misery of the Delegate and his followers at that moment. Passively they suffered themselves to be stripped, and an hour later the sleet drifted over the faces of forty naked corpses in the glen of Katase, while five new criers cleared the way before the host of the Black Rock Inn, as he lay back among the cushions of the palanquin.

Meantime, the castle of Tamaru was busy with preparations for the reception of the Delegate. Men who are on the eve of a great fraud are more than commonly careful of circumstance and arrangement, and Kuramoto, knowing the character of the man he had to deal with, and conscious also of the character of his own dealings, spared

no pains to place between himself and enquiry every possible obstacle of ceremony and hospitality. Before the vestibule, an ample square of freshly plaited rushes waited to receive its first impress from the Delegate's foot, and from its outer edge a triple line of handsomely bordered matting led to the court-yard gate, beyond which two heaps of newly dredged sand stood ready to construct a virgin road for the honoured visitor. No sooner did the Delegate's palanquin appear in sight than a hundred hands scattered this sand in semi-circles, throwing it always inwards, lest any grain might be trodden by inferior feet, and over this, through four ranks of foreheads bowed to the ground, the Delegate passed to the gate, and thence to the vestibule within.

It might have occurred to one who watched this pageant without being himself concerned in it, that the Delegate's face expressed more amusement than gratification, as he received the profuse salutations of Kuramoto and the chief officers of Tamaru, and possibly also such an one might have judged that the rules of etiquette were as studiously abridged by the visitor as they were exceeded by the visited; but Kuramoto took little note of these things, for his nature being to give everything that costs nothing, and exact the largest possible return, he was always glad to have a balance of any sort in his favour. So the reception passed off very comfortably, and the comptroller felt that his part had been successfully acted, as, looking up for a moment after his last bow at the threshold of the Delegate's room, he saw Fukuhara's eye resting with much appearance of satisfaction on a little parcel that lay beside his tea-tray; a little parcel very neatly wrapped in paper of blue and silver, and having a tiny piece of dried "sea-ear" inserted beneath the deftly tied knot of red and white floss that encircled it.

"Yakeishi," said the Delegate to one who seemed to be his chief attendant, and who never ceased smoking except to fill his pipe, "Yakeishi, just untie this thing, and see what it contains."

Yakeishi, laughing quietly, and plainly persuaded that the contents of the packet were not perishable, ripped it open with one slash of his dirk, and displayed three comely rouleaux, each inscribed with the letters "Hiyak'kin" (100 riyos). The two men looked at one another for a moment and then the Delegate said:—

"Yakeishi, I must confess that this is the first time I have had the pleasure of performing the duties of the office I hold to-day, and perhaps for that reason I find myself a little puzzled by this package. How does it appear to you?"

"Good money, Sir; good money, and better now than it ever was when Kuramoto had it," replied Yakeishi, designedly obtuse.

"Yakeishi," said the Delegate, "you may be an excellent judge of coin, but you are certainly a poor actor. Suppose however that you were Fukuhara, would you take this or would you return it?"

"Take it or return it, Sir! Well I should be inclined to think of that after I had spent it."

"Hum! Does it not then occur to you that when a man buys a thing for three or six times its value, he may be bidding for the good will of the owner as well as the possession of the article?"

"Yes, Sir, but it occurs to me also, that when a man pays his bills with stolen money he cannot well question the items."

"Yakeishi," said the Delegate laughing, "you are the very man to be Fukuhara's adviser. Just order some supper, and let us try what sort of wine they keep at Tamaru. We'll discuss the question of the three hundred riyos, when we get back to Shidzugatake."

So Yakeishi ordered supper, and in doing so found himself visited by a great many brilliant ideas. He remembered that the Delegate had the greatest partiality for eel pasties, sturgeon cutlets, omelettes, tender cuttle fish, sea-weed jelly, and a host of other delicacies, and moreover that it was Fukuhara's habit when away from home always to sup with his gentlemen and attendants, and see them partake without restraint of the same food as himself. Yakeishi delivered himself of this information more in the garb of fortuitous reflection than interested suggestion, interspersing his conversation with sundry wondrous

histories of the Kiyoto *cuisines* in general, and his master's *chefs* in particular, so that the Tamaru seneschals were constrained to enlist the resources of all the *restaurants* in Iwamura for the preparation of the visitors' supper and Kuramoto hoped, as the sounds of revel came louder and louder from the state apartments, that no feeling of indigestion might trouble the Delegate's serenity at the inspection of the body on the morrow.

The quantity of wine that was consumed that evening in the castle of Tamaru has long ago come to be regarded as a pleasant fiction, and need not therefore be detailed now; more especially as it appears to have been almost entirely without effect upon its consumers; for the Delegate's handsome face was scarcely flushed as he bade his followers good night, and walked into his sleeping room after supper.

There, lighting his pipe and throwing open the rain shutters, he sat looking out into the noble garden that surrounded three sides of the castle. Despite the frosty air, he watched the moon creep many feet above the camelia shrubbery, and heard the cry of the watchman often repeated without the gates, before he stretched out his hand to close the slides. "A cold spot that valley of Katase," he muttered to himself, his eye troubled by a cloud of pity and remorse, "a bitter spot in truth, and a wild place to lie without a coffin. I wish it could have been otherwise, but on this road there is no halting."

Another moment and the shutters had been closed, when, from behind the camelia shrubbery, there came a sound which to an unpractised ear might have been the quick sliding of a sash, but to the Delegate declared itself at once as the stroke of a sword upon wood. Listening a moment, he knew that some one was cutting a passage into the garden within a few yards of the place he was sitting, yet he neither shut the door nor changed his position, but merely looking round to see that his sword was within reach, sat quite still in the broad path of the moonbeams. Once and yet once again the strokes were repeated, and then a little mist of snow flakes was shaken from the camelia leaves as the figure of a man pushed its way through. A mere boy he seemed, of some seventeen or eighteen summers, his face emaciated and deadly pale, but rigid with an inflexible purpose, and in his hand the naked sword whose strokes had cut him a passage. Scarcely had he advanced five steps when he stopped astonished, for the Delegate was speaking to him in a very gentle but determined voice:—

"Young man, I have no doubt that some good reason induced you to adopt this curious fashion of entry, but you may now put up your sword and announce yourself, I think."

Thus addressed, the lad, quickly sheathing his sword, bowed his head to the ground and answered:—

"Sir, my name is Shozayemon Kinya. I have no words to apologize for my rudeness in breaking in thus like a common robber. It is not the certain forfeit of my life that deters me from seeking admission at the proper entrance, but the knowledge that after my death, my father's suicide and my master's murder must remain unavenged. By their memories I conjure you to hear my story, and help me to fulfil the trust that alone makes my life valuable."

"Kinya," replied the Delegate compassionately, "before you say any more, come in and sit down. You look cold and tired."

But these words seemed utterly to confound the young man. He looked up at the Delegate with a wild glance of uncertain hope, the blood flashed for a second into his pallid face, and staggering in his attempt to rise, he had fain rested his hands upon the ground, when he found himself supported by a strong arm and almost lifted into the room. He was conscious of being seated on a wadded quilt beside the brazier, of seeing the moonlight and the frost shut out, of hearing the Delegate call for food and wine; and then, the return of the hopes that starvation and misery had expelled from his heart, the comfortable fire breathing on his frozen limbs, the kind, strong voice of the Delegate, bidding him eat and forget the past, and telling him that his story was already known and his father's memory honoured—all these things breaking down the barriers of his manhood, he dropped his head

upon his hands, and had no power to restrain his happy tears.

After a time, the Delegate showed him Nakatsukasa's letter, and told him that the whole extent of Kuramoto's crime was already known, and would be fully punished. But the comptroller, ignorant of all this, slept with Taka's fair head resting on his arm, and cast up the totals of many princely revenues in his dreams.

When the sun had climbed the hills and looked in a second time on the corpses in the glen of Katase, all the principal vassals of Tamaru assembled in the hall of state to prepare for the Delegate's inspection. Before the alcove stood the bier of milk white pine, supporting a large urn, within which the body had been placed in a sitting position and so completely packed in vermilion that only the head was visible. The urn itself, some four feet high and twice as many in circumference, was enclosed in a thick case of the same wood as the bier, and over the whole a pall of white silk was drawn. The chief vassals knelt in two lines, extending from either side of the bier to the threshold of the room, but the place of honour, nearest the pall on the left, waited to be occupied by the comptroller after he had escorted the Delegate to the coffin.

The true cause of death was only understood by a few, and so important was it deemed to limit this cognizance, that even the pursuit of the supposed assassin had been relinquished. For the rest, Nakatsukasa's debilitated condition had been sufficiently well known at court to exempt him from the military service imposed on all the nobility at that time by the war with Corea. Such a combination of caution and circumstance seemed surely strong enough to control the event.

The Delegate, accompanied by Kuramoto and a few attendants, all treading softly, as men are wont to do in the presence of death, entered the room amid a solemn silence, which the rustle of the bowing vassals' robes alone disturbed. Arrived at the side of the bier, the comptroller retired to the vacant seat at the head of the rank of retainers. On his right, swathed in white silk and almost within reach, lay the short-sword* that had wrought the mischief, and, reminded thus suddenly of his crime, his attention was for a moment fascinated by the weapon. When he looked up he saw that the Delegate was observing him curiously.

At a sign from Fukuhara the pall was raised, and the Delegate, after gazing for a short time at the head of the dead man, rendered shockingly livid by its vermilion environment, turned and fixed his eyes so long and so steadfastly on Kuramoto's face that a stir of astonishment passed through all the vassals.

"Kuramoto," he said at last, "what was the nature of the lord of Tamaru's death?"

Now although the official report, signed by the three chief vassals of Tamaru, had ascribed Nakatsukasa's decease to his constant malady, and although, presumed, the Delegate had seen that report, it was very natural that before the bier he should demand some solemn confirmation of the facts. Yet the comptroller betrayed no small emotion as he answered.

"We have already had the honour to report that his death was the result of an illness from which he had been long suffering."

Thereupon the Delegate, turning so as to face the two ranks of vassals said:—

"You have heard the chief comptroller's statement. Do you all confirm it? I ask you because your master's face is the face of a man who has died, not of disease, but of a wound."

These words, spoken with all the assurance of certainty, excited so much astonishment in those who were ignorant of the truth, and so much consternation in those who had concealed it, that for a time no one found voice to reply. At last an old vassal, advancing his seat a little before the line of his fellows, said:—

"Sir, I fear that what I say may have the appearance of contradicting your opinion, but our master's illness had long been known to us all, and that he died of it is a fact

* The short-sword was the only weapon placed beside a corpse lying in state. F. B.

beyond question. We hope and pray therefore that you will find it in your power to sanction the succession, and spare us the disgrace of delay or suspicion.

"It results then," replied the Delegate, still keeping his back to Kuramoto, "that if we both persist, I in my statement and you in your contradiction, the only course will be to examine the body, a witness that will certainly establish things little to your credit. But I hesitate to take this step, for I have no wish to bring disaster upon the House of Tamaru, and ruin to all its adherents. At the same time, if I falter in the discharge of my office, I incur grave peril myself. Possibly you may discover some means of resolving these difficulties. I shall expect your answer presently, for I cannot remain here beyond noon."

All this had but one import; and the Delegate, satisfied apparently that there could be no miscomprehension, took his way back through the lines of bowing vassals, accompanied by the comptroller, who even while he exulted in the knowledge that his deadly peril had drifted harmlessly by, was still pale to the lips from its momentary encounter.

"Kuramoto," said the Delegate, when they found themselves at the threshold of the guests' apartment, "I have a document here that will, I think, help you to determine your conduct." Saying this he unfolded a copy of Nakatsukasa's last letter and handed it to the comptroller.

Kuramoto, as he read, laid the paper on the ground before him, for his hand shook so that the characters became undiscernible. He neither spoke nor raised his head, but great drops of agony rolled down his brow, and all his fertility of expedient, yielding to the instinct of desperation, his fingers twined themselves mechanically round the handle of his dirk.

But the Delegate, seeing his disorder, said gently:—

"This is between you and me, Kuramoto. No other need see it, and I only show it to you with the object of assuring you that the wound in Nakatsukasa's breast has not been made known to me by the expression of his features alone." Then folding the letter, he placed it among the burning charcoal in the brazier, adding: "I preserve the original, until I know the nature of the arrangements you propose to make."

Not small was the measure of Kuramoto's thankfulness for the happy chance that had selected so sensible a Delegate as Fukuhara. Combining all the gold he possessed or could raise himself, with the money found in the Tamaru treasury, he succeeded, before noon, in collecting a sum of four thousand riyos. Of this one half was handed to the Delegate, and the other distributed among his followers.

The bribe was enormous,* but not in excess of the occasion. Once more a solemn inspection of the corpse was made, and the Delegate publicly acknowledging that he now recognized the death to have been natural, declared Taka's son Kosaku, heir to all the titles and lands of Tamaru.

Meanwhile Kinya had remained in the Delegate's sleeping chamber, to which only Yakeishi had access. Ignorant of all that had occurred, but in his helplessness content to be trusting, he was easily persuaded to conceal himself in a huge wicker case that formed part of Fukuhara's baggage, and so was carried from the castle that afternoon. He remarked that after a short time the rate of progress was trebled, and his bearers so repeatedly changed that almost everybody in the procession must have been employed in the relays. About an hour after night-fall, however, he began again to move slowly, and presently for the first time felt himself lowered to the ground.

He waited some moments, expecting that the case would be opened or the journey resumed, but finally, astonished at the utter silence that reigned around, he raised the cover of his hiding place, and looking out, found himself alone, in a mountain pathway entirely unknown to him. Suspended from the bearing pole of the wicker case were a lamp, a box of provisions, and a parcel. Opening the last, he found that it contained a hundred riyos, Nakatsukasa's letter, and a paper with these words:—

"Go to Kiyoto, and as soon as Kuramoto shall have confessed Nakatsukasa's murder, lay before his judges your master's letter. Preserve this paper also; you will need it. Above all, do not act prematurely."

* The sum (4,000 riyos) would now be equivalent to fifty-seven thousand six hundred yen. F. B.

It was only when, ten days later, after weary wanderings and endless detours, Kinya saw the walls of the castle at Kiyoto gleam out in the setting sunlight, that he began to believe he was not the victim of some elfish trick. He was still completely perplexed about the import of the letter found hanging from the bearing-pole, for the day after its receipt, he had been able to assure himself that Kuramoto's position at Tamaru was better assured than ever. What then was he to understand by the confession spoken of, and where could he hope to lie concealed until the advent of an event apparently so remote?

Pondering over these things, he turned into a little hostel by the road side, and was in the act of seeking some information from the landlord about the inns at Kiyoto, when the sounds of a passing cavalcade attracted his attention. He looked out and saw, first some equerries, then some mounted officers, and finally a party of men-at-arms guarding six travelling chairs, of which one was occupied by Kuramoto, another by Taka, and the rest by four of the chief vassals of Tamaru.

Kinya, following the cavalcade, had little difficulty in ascertaining that Kuramoto and his fellows, charged with the murder of Fukuhara, whose corpse had been found in the valley of Katase, were now on their way to Kiyoto for examination.

Three days later, he learned that the comptroller, when put to the torture, had confessed, not indeed the murder of the Delegate, but that of Nakatsukasa, as well as the illegitimacy of Kosaku and the intrigue against himself, Kinya. Then, seeing that the indicated time had arrived, Kinya obtained access to the officers charged with the conduct of the examination, laid before them Nakatsukasa's letter as well as the paper he supposed Fukuhara to have written, and described all the circumstances of his own escape from Tamaru. The officers, unable to extort from their prisoners any confession of complicity in Fukuhara's murder, had begun to suspect that the guilt could not be imputed to Kuramoto. This suspicion was confirmed by Kinya's evidence, but many a year passed before men knew that the false Delegate had been—Ishikawa Goyemon.

Kuramoto and his mistress Taka were crucified outside the castle gates, while the fief of Tamaru was declared forfeit, and all the vassals deprived of their revenues, except Kinya, to whom the estates of the comptroller were granted in perpetuity.

If there be any light amid the darkness of Ishikawa's crimes, it is surely in part reflected by the gratitude of Shozayemon Kinya.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

JUDGES IN JAPAN: THEIR POSITION AND PAY.

(Correspondence of the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

DISCUSSION is being carried on in all the newspapers respecting the proposed revision of the Treaties with Foreign Powers, arising from patriotic feeling in the nation, and, I believe, conferring more or less benefit on the parties concerned. Broadly divided—this discussion may be separated into two parts:—on Customs Rights, and on Jurisdiction.

Putting aside the question of Customs duties; as regards the Right of Jurisdiction, every one is of opinion that our law is incomplete and too strict; and that, unless it be revised and made lenient, foreigners could not be induced to place themselves under it; and not a few of the disputants in the newspapers are becoming aware of the value of the right of liberty of the individual; are expressing regret that this right should be utterly ignored, as in the case of arrest without evidence, long detention before trial, &c.; and are wishful for revision of the law. But I think myself that such disputants are of those who, seeing the first step to be taken, are ignorant of what the second should be. A good system of Law is of course what we want; but good administration of it is much more urgently needed. Because Law does not act by itself, but is administered by man; therefore, though the laws may be good, if they be not administered by competent men, the effect of their working will be the contrary.

For instance, compare the laws of England and France; they are certainly not alike, but, from the protection they give to the people, and from the way in which they maintain the right of individual liberty, it would appear as if both nations were under one Government.

The only reason of this is, that the laws are there administered by competent men. It may be asked:—"Do you mean to say that our present Judges are not competent men?" To this I would reply:—"Consider a little." In doing any business, it cannot be conducted precisely, justly, wisely, and expeditiously,—unless the mind of him who conducts it is at ease, and his body at leisure. The Judges who are the busiest at the present time are mostly below the 10th class* in rank, and are liable to discharge or removal during their term of office. How then can their minds possibly be at ease? They have to adjudicate from five or six, to ten or more cases daily.

How then can their bodies possibly be at leisure?

From what I hear, the expenditure granted for the Judges in the whole country does not amount to 1,300,000 *yen* per annum: nearly as much is allotted to the police in one *Fu*. Thus it is necessary at present, to divide the salaries of the judges into a great number of classes, and to make them much less, as compared with the officials engaged in the Works, and other Departments; and also to curtail the number of the Judges.

This is the reason that our rights of person and property are obliged to be entrusted to officers mostly below the 10th class, who are very busy, and bustling almost beyond description. Arrest without evidence, long detention without reason, &c. are of course infringements of the rules of justice and civil rights. Or is it that there is no law? But if judges have not the time to administer it with due care and attention, a law is an idle thing. So, however, well a law may have been drawn up, whether its effect is good, is impossible to know. If profoundly learned men are employed to frame a law, any law may be framed: but unless it is properly administered, by competent men, no good result can be gained. With such a state of things we ourselves would not be satisfied: how then would foreigners be satisfied? What then can we do? We must select competent men, raise their position, increase their salaries: and thus let their minds be at ease:—increase their number, and thus put their bodies at leisure.

Again, it may be argued:—"At present, when the money for the necessary expenditure of the country is so insufficient; how is the allotment for the Judges to be increased? This is confounding the end with the beginning." I reply:—Is not the object of our paying taxes to the Government, to obtain protection for our rights of person and property? and who should be first provided for by Government, whose duty it is to protect the peoples' rights,—before the Judges? If, therefore, a sufficient sum were allotted for the administration of justice from the Government income (and although the outlay of the country is so great, it might be curtailed otherwise) although the law be not yet revised, its practice would no doubt be greatly improved; and if then we were to set about revising the law, it would not be too late. I therefore maintain that, though a good system of law is desirable, a good method of administering it is still more needed at present; so I do not agree with the opinion of the majority of disputants. I write this in order to elicit the opinion of learned men in Japan.

PREPARATION OF THE INTERIOR FOR THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGNERS.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

OUR interior affairs must be first put in order, before we take up foreign affairs; and in our intercourse with foreigners, this is what chiefly concerns the people at present.

The restriction of foreigners from travel in the interior, and intermixing with ourselves, our Government has no wish to prolong; but it is simply that we shall have time to regulate our home affairs first. Without such restriction, we should not be able to resist the pressure of foreigners: and in this period of "Meiji," it is only the existence of this restriction which enables us to live in

safety. But this has been so repeatedly argued in these columns that we do not think it necessary to repeat it.

But some rude disputants may ask:—"what is meant by regulating our Home affairs? Does it mean that we are to improve our interior condition by means of our own wisdom? Then, as we grow in knowledge one degree, foreigners would also advance in the same degree. We have already taken them as our teachers; how can we hope to surpass them? Even should we, failing in this, succeed in reaching to the same point as they, still we could never say that we had regulated our Home affairs. Therefore, the idea of preparing the interior for foreign intercourse will be a vain one for all future time."

Alas! those who are anxious to advance rapidly, tired of waiting for the opportunity when the interior of the country shall be so prepared, but wish at once to jump to equality with foreigners, may be misguided by such delusive arguments. But we assert that this improvement of the Interior is no such impossible thing.

Consider how England gained her wealth, which is the origin of her strength and power all over the world. What has given most wealth to England is her "Cotton manufactures." Englishmen having got hold of this one thing, have thereby greatly deprived Oriental countries of their wealth. Indeed, what we most suffer from in the total amount of our Imports is the Cotton goods manufactured in England; and it is Cotton which is depriving Japan of her wealth, and taking it away to foreign countries. And Cotton, which gives such strength to her trade, is not a production of England.

The first introduction of cotton into Europe was by the Saracens, but this does not seem to have originated the manufacture in England. In 1585 the Prince of Parma having taken Antwerp, the workmen there, in order to escape from his despotic government, fled to England; and among them were a number of workmen skilful in the manufacture of cotton. These, having all taken up their residence in Manchester, the officials of that town treated them well, and thus commenced the manufacture of cotton in England. But two hundred and fifty years elapsed, before the manufacture became flourishing; let us now consider and ascertain what changes it has passed through, down to the present time.

As the use of cotton goods became extended, and the hands of the workmen were inadequate to meet the demand, machinery was invented by degrees. Since Wyatt invented the simple spinning machinery, Arkwright, Hargreaves, Crompton &c. made several inventions at different times, and establishing great manufactories, made it quite a settled business; but still it could not be said to be at the point of its highest prosperity.

About 1770, Watt's locomotive engines were first employed in the cotton manufactures, but still, until it had undergone several more improvements it did not attain to its present state; i.e. that labour being greatly lessened, the cost of production is little, and so all the requirements of the public are met.

From what we have above described, it will be seen that even this one manufacture of cotton has required the lapse of many hundred years, and necessitated the inventions of many men in order to bring it to perfection, and to give the trade the strength it has attained. But in our country cotton is produced. And we need not wait for the appearance in Japan of a native Wyatt or Arkwright, nor for the invention of steam engines by a Watt. The method of manufacture, and the best spinning machines are in the possession of foreigners, and we have only to borrow them. So, if we can afford to employ these, we could not fail in imitating them, and manufacturing the same class of goods which they do.

This is the age of imitation; no more invention or contrivance is necessary. Thus such an argument as 'if we advance one degree, they will advance in the same proportion, so that we shall never attain to equality with them' can only be called a delusive one. If we try, and can afford to borrow their machinery, it is no difficult matter for us to place ourselves in as good a position as they.

Therefore, again we say, that to improve our interior condition all that is wanted is that we should be able to afford to borrow their machinery.

Then, so soon as our requirements are fulfilled, and the art of imitating their manufactures fully understood; then, indeed, will be the time when we shall be in the same

* Our Government officers are classified into seventeen classes, commencing with the Prime Minister at the head.—Translator.

position as they are, and then we need not distress ourselves if the Interior is thrown open to foreigners.

So the idea of internal reform is not "a vain one for all future time."

EXTRACTS.

THE DAUGHTER OF LEBANON.

DAMASCUS, first-born of cities, *Om el Denia*,* mother of generations, that wast before Abraham, that wast before the Pyramids! what sounds are those that, from a postern gate, looking eastwards over secret paths that wind away to the far distant desert, break the solemn silence of an oriental night? Whose voice is that which calls upon the spearmen, keeping watch for ever in the turret surmounting the gate, to receive him back into his Syrian home? Thou knowest him, Damascus, and hast known him in seasons of trouble as one learned in the afflictions of man; wise alike to take counsel for the suffering spirit or for the suffering body. The voice that breaks upon the night is the voice of a great evangelist—one of the four; and he is also a great physician. This do the watchmen at the gate thankfully acknowledge, and joyfully they give him entrance. His sandals are white with dust; for he has been roaming for weeks beyond the desert, under the guidance of Arabs, on missions of hopeful benignity to Palmyra;† and in spirit he is weary of all things, except faithfulness to God, and burning love to man.

Eastern cities are asleep betimes; and sounds few or none fretted the quiet of all around him, as the evangelist paced onward to the market place; but there another scene awaited him. On the right hand, in an upper chamber, with lattices widely expanded, sat a festal company of youths, revelling under a noontide blaze of light, from cressets and from bright tripods that burned fragrant woods—all joining in choral songs, all crowned with odorous wreaths from Daphne and the banks of the Orontes. Them the evangelist heeded not; but far away upon the left, close upon a sheltered nook, lighted up by a solitary vase of iron fretwork filled with cedar boughs, and hoisted high upon a spear, behold there sat a woman of loveliness so transcendent, that, when suddenly revealed, as now, out of deepest darkness, she appalled men as a mockery, or a birth of the air. Was she born of woman? Was it perhaps the angel—so the evangelist argued with himself—that met him in the desert after sunset, and strengthened him by secret talk? The evangelist went up, and touched her forehead; and he found that she was indeed human, and guessed, from the station which she had chosen, that she waited for some one amongst this dissolute crew as her companion. He groaned heavily in spirit, and said, half to himself, and half to her:—"Wert thou, poor ruined flower, adorned so divinely at thy birth—glorified in such excess, that not Solomon in all his pomp—no, nor even the lilies of the field—can approach thy gifts—only that thou shouldst grieve the Holy Spirit of God?" The woman trembled exceedingly, and said, "Rabbi, what should I do? For behold! all men forsake me." The evangelist mused a little, and then secretly to himself he said, "Now will I search this woman's heart—whether in very truth it inclineth itself to God, and hath strayed only before fiery compulsion. Turning therefore to the woman, the Prophet‡ said, "Listen: I am the messenger of Him whom thou hast not known; of him that made Lebanon and the cedars of Lebanon; that made the sea, and the heavens, and the host of the stars; that made the light; that made the darkness; that breathed the spirit of life into the nostrils of man. His messenger I am: and from Him all power is given me to bind and to loose, to build and to pull down. Ask, therefore, whatsoever thou wilt—great or small—and through me thou shalt receive it from God. But, my child, ask not amiss. For God is able out of thy own evil asking to weave snares for thy

* *Om el Denia*:—"Mother of the world is the Arabic title of Damascus. That it was before Abraham—i. e., already an old establishment much more than a thousand years before the siege of Troy, and than two thousand years before our Christian era—may be inferred from Gen. xv. 2; and by the general consent of all eastern races. Damascus is accredited as taking precedence in age of all cities to the west of the Indus.

† Palmyra had not yet reached its meridian splendour of Grecian development, as afterwards near the age of Aurelian, but it was already a noble city.

‡ *The Prophet*:—"Though a Prophet was not therefore and in virtue of that character an Evangelist, yet every Evangelist was necessarily in the scriptural sense a Prophet. For let it be remembered that a Prophet did not mean a Predictor, or Foreteller of events, except derivatively and inferentially. What was a Prophet in the uniform scriptural sense? He was a man, who drew aside the curtain from the secret counsels of Heaven. He declared, or made public, the previously hidden truths of God; and because future events might chance to involve divine truth, therefore a revealer of events might happen so far to be a Prophet. Yet still small was that part of a Prophet's functions which concerned the foretelling of events; and not necessarily any part.

footing. And oftentimes to the lambs whom He loves, he gives by seeming to refuse; gives in some better sense, or" (and his voice swelled into the power of anthems) "in some far happier world. Now, therefore, my daughter, be wise on thy own behalf; and say what it is that I shall ask for thee from God." But the Daughter of Lebanon needed not his caution; for immediately dropping on one knee to God's ambassador, whilst the full radiance from the cedar torch fell upon the glory of a penitential eye, she raised her clasped hands in supplication, and said, in answer to the evangelist asking for a second time what gift he should call down upon her from Heaven, "Lord, that thou wouldest put me back into my father's house." And the evangelist, because he was human, dropped a tear as he stooped to kiss her forehead, saying, "Daughter, thy prayer is heard in heaven and I tell thee that the daylight shall not come and go for thirty times, not for the thirtieth time shall the sun drop behind Lebanon; before I will put thee back into thy father's house."

Thus the lovely lady came into the guardianship of the evangelist. She sought not to varnish her history, or to palliate her own transgressions. In so far as she had offended at all, her case was that of millions in every generation. Her father was a prince in Lebanon, proud, unforgiving, austere. The wrongs done to his daughter by her dishonourable lover, because done under favour of opportunities created by her confidence in his integrity, her father persisted in resenting as wrongs done by this injured daughter herself; and, refusing to her all protection, drove her, whilst yet confessedly innocent, into criminal compliances under sudden necessities of seeking daily bread from her own uninstructed efforts. Great was the wrong she suffered both from father and lover; great was the retribution. She lost a churlish father and a wicked lover; she gained an apostolic guardian. She lost a princely station in Lebanon; she gained an early heritage in heaven. For this heritage is hers within thirty days, if she will not defeat it herself. And, whilst the stealthy motion of time travelled toward this thirtieth day, behold! a burning fever desolated Damascus, which also laid its arrest upon the Daughter of Lebanon, yet gently, and so that hardly for an hour did it withdraw her from the heavenly teachings of the evangelist. And thus daily the doubt was strengthened—would the holy apostle suddenly touch her with his hand, and say, "Woman, be thou whole!" or would he present her on the thirtieth day as a pure bride to Christ? But perfect freedom belongs to Christian service, and she only must make the election.

Uprose the sun on the thirtieth morning in all his pomp, but suddenly was darkened by driving storms. Not until noon was the heavenly orb again revealed; then the glorious light was again unmasked, and again the Syrian valleys rejoiced. This was the hour already appointed for the baptism of the new Christian daughter. Heaven and earth shed gratulation on the happy festival; and, when all was finished, under an awning raised above the level roof of her dwelling-house, the regenerate daughter of Lebanon, looking over the rose-gardens of Damascus, with amplest prospect of her native hills, lay in blissful trance making proclamation, by her white baptismal robes, of recovered innocence and of reconciliation with God. And, when the sun was declining to the west, the evangelist, who had sat from noon by the bedside of his spiritual daughter, rose solemnly, and said, "Lady of Lebanon, the day is already come, and the hour is coming, in which my covenant must be fulfilled with thee. Wilt thou, therefore, being now wiser in thy thoughts, suffer God thy new Father to give by seeming to refuse; to give in some better sense, or in some far happier world?" But the Daughter of Lebanon sorrowed at these words; she yearned after her native hills; not for themselves, but because it was there that she had left that sweet twin-born sister, with whom from infant days hand-in-hand she had wandered amongst the everlasting cedars. And again the evangelist sat down by her bedside; whilst she by intervals communed with him, and by intervals slept gently under the oppression of her fever. But as evening drew nearer, and it wanted now but a brief space to the going down of the sun, once again, and with deeper solemnity, the evangelist rose to his feet, and said, "O daughter! this is the thirtieth day, and the sun is drawing near to his rest; brief, therefore, is the time within which I must fulfill the word that God spoke to thee by me." Then because light clouds of delirium were playing about her brain, he raised his pastoral staff, and pointing it to her temples, rebuked the clouds, and bade that no more they should trouble her vision, or stand between her and the forests of Lebanon. And the delicious clouds parted asunder, breaking away to the right and to the left. But upon the forests of Lebanon there hung a mighty mass of overshadowing vapours, bequeathed by the morning's storm. And a second time the evangelist raised his pastoral staff, and, pointing it to the gloomy vapours, rebuked them, and bade that no more they should stand between his daughter and her

father's house. And immediately the dark vapours broke away from Lebanon to the right and to the left; and the farewell radiance of the sun lighted up all the paths that ran between the everlasting cedars and her father's palace. But vainly the lady of Lebanon searched every path with her eyes for memorials of her sister. And the evangelist, pitying her sorrow, turned away her eyes to the clear blue sky, which the departing vapours had exposed. And he showed her the peace which was there. And then he said, "O daughter! this also is but a mask." And immediately for the third time he raised his pastoral staff, and pointing it to the fair blue sky, he rebuked it, and bade that no more it should stand between her and the vision of God. Immediately the blue sky parted to the right and to the left, laying bare the infinite revelations that can be made visible only to dying eyes. And the daughter of Lebanon said to the evangelist, "O father! what armies are these that I see mustering within the infinite chasm?" And the evangelist replied, "These are the armies of Christ, and they are mustering to receive some dear human blossom, some first-fruits of Christian faith, that shall rise this night to Christ from Damascus." Suddenly, as thus the child of Lebanon gazed upon the mighty vision, she saw bending forward from the heavenly host, as if in gratulation to herself, the one countenance for which she hungered and thirsted. The twin-sister, that should have waited for her in Lebanon, had died of grief, and was waiting for her in Paradise. Immediately in rapture she soared upwards from her couch; immediately in weakness she fell back; and being caught by the evangelist, she flung her arms around his neck; whilst he breathed into her ear his final whisper, "Wilt thou now suffer that God should give by seeming to refuse?"—"Oh yes—yes—yes," was the fervent answer from the Daughter of Lebanon. Immediately the evangelist gave the signal to the heavens, and the heavens gave the signal to the sun; and in one minute after the Daughter of Lebanon had fallen back a marble corpse amongst her white baptismal robes, the solar orb dropped behind Lebanon; and the evangelist, with eyes glorified by mortal and immortal tears, rendered thanks to God that had thus accomplished the word which he spoke through himself to the Magdalen of Lebanon—that not for the thirtieth time should the sun go down behind her native hills, before he had put her back into her Father's house.

ARE WE CONSUMING OUR CAPITAL?

(From the 'Economist'.)

I.

THE main question put in Mr. Rathbone's very interesting letter which appeared in our columns (see *Economist* of November 24, and reprinted December 1), is the one placed at the head of this paper. Are we consuming our Capital? Are we spending more than we produce? Are we only living on the accumulated stores of former years? Whichever way we put it, the meaning is identical. If this is the course the nation is embarked upon, the result, whether long deferred or not, must eventually be the same. Sooner or later, the exhaustion of our national resources must follow.

It is well to look this firmly in the face, for no inquiry more important, from a material point of view, can be put before the inhabitants of any country. Should it be the case, it means sooner or later the abandonment not only of all progress, but even of our present position. It means that the condition of the people must slowly but surely drop below the present standard. It means that poverty, with all its attendant trials, must make itself felt in every city of the Empire. It means even more than all this; it means the loss of our present standing in the councils of Europe. The Englishman abroad has sometimes, in the course of his travels, happened to pass through the streets of some half-deserted city. As he has surveyed the lines of dilapidated dwellings, the buildings which once were palaces, but now scarcely afford shelter to their pauper occupants, as he has observed the proofs of power passed away, of industries which have ceased to exist, of commerce once flourishing and now diverted to other channels, he has said to himself, "How unlike England!" And indeed, though every village and town in this country has not uniformly prospered, though the evidences of misdirected enterprise stand here and there, gaunt spectres, among the busy scenes of active prosperity, yet, on the whole, how difficult it is to us to call to mind a single English city with grass-grown streets and decaying structures!

But this, and more than this, is before us, if it be the fact, as expressed in Mr. Rathbone's letter, "that the country as a whole has been extravagant, and has overspent to an extent which is 'reducing its capital and eating into its savings,' unless a timely economy comes to the rescue, and preserves us from the otherwise inevitable results. Let us examine into the matter a little, and

see whether we can ascertain the truth. The vast proportions which commercial enterprise has attained in this country, the enormous amount of capital invested in almost every conceivable form of industry, the immense riches of our great capitalists, and of the representative men of our noble Houses, all these constitute or imply such gigantic masses of wealth, that it seems impossible to suppose there can be any commencement of decay among us. Add to this, that the recent great outburst of apparent affluence in this country occurred during a period when the increasing development of scientific skill seemed to render man more independent of the resources of nature, and the further extension of mechanical forces seemed to render it more easy for the labourer to earn a livelihood, and tended to hide from us the fact that an increasing population can only be supported by increased efforts on its own part. All these things have assisted to obscure the real questions at issue from our view. The proportion on which things are carried on among us is so vast, that it is almost impossible to find any adequate basis on which to found an estimate whether prosperity is continuing or waning. Nor is this to be wondered at. On a far smaller scale the same class of events not unfrequently occurs. Men engaged in the larger forms of commercial operations have sometimes, it is said, and we believe truly, found it difficult to frame a balance-sheet from year to year, and to know whether they have made money or not during the preceding twelvemonth; and to arrive at a knowledge of the similar facts in the case of a whole country, especially one combining so many and such varied elements as Great Britain, is more difficult still. But we may put together a few rough hints, which may assist our readers to draw their own conclusions.

The point from which Mr. Rathbone starts is the vast increase in our Import trade, while the value of our Exports has greatly diminished. Mr. Rathbone explains that he does not mean, of course, to revive the exploded fallacy that the prosperity of a country depends on the excess of its exports over its imports; but that is, as he justly remarks, "a different question from the one 'raised by a very rapid and unprecedented increase in the 'disparity between the aggregate value of our imports and the aggregate value of our exports.'"

Mr. Rathbone is far too good a Free-Trader to imagine for one moment that the mere fact that our Imports exceed our Exports in any given proportion matters in the slightest degree, but the questions he asks are practically these,—are our Imports more than we can pay for without trenching on our capital to pay for them? Do they take the form of unproductive expenditure? Are we, in fact, spending more than we can afford?

(To be continued.)

THE JAPAN TIMES.

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
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CONTENTS OF No. 6. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. FEBRUARY 9TH, 1878.

LEADING ARTICLES.

Disafforestation. Sandals *versus* Boots. Municipality or Murder?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 6 A. Vicarious Delegate.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Judges in Japan:—Their position and pay. The Preparation of the Interior for the admission of Foreigners. (From the *Hochi Shinbun*.)

EXTRACTS.

The Daughter of Lebanon. Are we consuming our Capital?

THE HOUSEKEEPER.

(being a list of prices current for provisions, in foreign shops and native markets.)

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 4. JANUARY 26, 1878.

Japanese Cases. Mixed Courts. Judge Goo win; *In Memoriam*.

Editorial notes. Notes of the Week.

The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 4.

Notes and Queries.

Correspondence. Will Adams' Grave.

The Chefoo Convention.

Professions and Trade Directory. The Housekeeper, Mail Steamers Register Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c.

Bread	...	...	.08 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	...	...	.10 to .18	"
Mutton	"	"	.19 to .30	"
Veal	"	"	.25	"
Pork	"	"	.12 to .16	"
Sausages	"	"	.30	"
Beef—Japese. Butchers	...	...	.10 to .16	"
Mutton	"	"	.16 to .25	"
Veal	"	"	.20	"
Pork	"	"	.10	"
Sausages	"	"	.20	"
Oysters	...	...	.05 to .10	per 100
Eggs	...	...	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Chickens	...	...	.15 to .25	each.
Geese	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Wild geese	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Pigeons	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Turkeys	...	...	2.00 to 3.50	"
Hen Turkeys	...	...		"
Deer	...	...	.15	per lb.
Wild—boar	...	...	.12	"
Hares	...	...	.37 to .50	each.
Pheasants	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Quail	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Snipe	...	...	.06 to .08	"
Woodcock	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Wild ducks	...	...	.37 to .40	"
Bombay Onions	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	...	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	...	.12½	"
English Coal	...	...	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	...	...	8.50 to 10.00	"
Anthracite	...	...	15.00 to 17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	...	10.50 to 11.50	"

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes, sweet potatoes cabbage, small cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes, lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery, turnips & carrots.

List of unclaimed letters &c. remaining at the British Post office, January 18th, 1878:—

Anderson Rolf	Mannin Mrs
Brown Thomas	Newton, W.
Blundell A. W.	Plugge, P. C., Dr.
Giovani Crivicich	Trunja, Moses & Co.
Halurhaba Adolf Bevd.	Watt, W.
Kuki Riuchi (Begd. Letter)	Waters, J. M.
Mapstone Geo.	

MERCHANT VESSELS.

"August"
"Christine"
"Ceylon"
"Fair Leader"
"Grenada"
"H. G. Wappans"

"Julia A. Brown"
"Kedar"
"Loyal Sam"
"Midnight"
"Maro"
"Sir Lancelot"
"William Manson"

F. G. MACHADO,

Post Master.

Post Office, Yokohama,
1st February, 1878.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial Japanese Post Office, January 18th, 1878:—

Armstrong, H. B.
Andrews, E.
Allin, H. N., Tokio, 2
Burnes, John J.
Bianchi, L., Tokio.
Campbell, A. A.
Cartman, E., Tokio
Carne, P.
Cheesman, F.
Clark, W. S.
Camhefert, Emile.
Churchill, Rev. H. A.
Day, T.
Degron, M. Refused
Eaton, G., Tokio
Evans, Hornby, Tokio, 2
Edwards, Mrs.
Flood, Wm.
Fagan, C. D. F.
Godfrey, J. G. H., Tokio, 4
Hanzen, E., Tokio
Hall, Sam H.
Hamill, G. D.
Hoffman,
Hansen, E., Tokio
Hashimoto, M.
Harding W. J., Tokio
Jacobs, Frederic S.
Kluge, Theodore, Tokio
Kelaimbi & Son
Myacila
Mansfield

Marie, Mrs. A., Tokio
Mendelson Bros.
Prestiloff, B., Tokio
Place, Edw., Register
Pousset, F.
Pigeon, F., Tokio
Robertson, S.
Rockwell, G. J., Tokio
Richards, Wm. H., 2
Schneider, Dr. A. Tokio
Shinagaya, R.,
Senel
Saito, T.
Sekiya K., Tokio
Schwaub, M.
Smith, Wm.
Tailor, B.
Tracy, John
Theall, James
Tobv, Miss, Tokio
Tayler, Mrs.
Tarbell, Rev.
Trungia, Moses & Co.
Thorel, H.
Uriu, T.
Van Peth, M. F.
Walker, G. W., Tokio
Wychoff
Wylie, A. H.
Wilson, North & Co.
Watt W.
Yona, Kitchie

SHIPS.

Barque "Ariola"

S. S. "Patro"
Ship "Sumner R. Mead."

L. T. FARR,

Acting Superintendent.

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, Jan. 18th, 1878.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FEBRUARY 8TH, 1878.

IMPORTS.—But a small business has been done this week. There have been large arrivals of Yarns, and the natives seek to take advantage of the fact: therefore though 16 to 24 and ditto Reverse are in good or fair demand, the low rates offered check sales. In other counts we have nothing to report, and refer to our tables.

Grey Shirtings are very quiet, and indeed the whole market for cotton goods is dull—holders being by no means eager to accept the drooping quotations offered for their goods. For sales and prices see next page.

A little better report may be made of the Woollens market. Stocks of inferior Orleans having been reduced, purchasers have not been difficult to meet with at quotations. Scarlet Mousselines have been in good demand and we report exceptional sales of choice parcels at a higher figure than our general quoted price.

EXPORTS:—SILK. Very little was done in this market on Saturday last, or in the early part of the current week. During the last forty-eight hours, however, business has been much brisker. Holders have shown decided signs of weakness, and prices may be quoted \$10 to \$20 lower all round, than when we last wrote. In spite, also, of the purchases made during the last two days at this reduction, natives seem willing enough to meet buyers and the market is decidedly weak. The amount of purchases made we estimate at from 350 to 400 native bales. Stocks may be called 3,300. The *Bombay* took 47 bales for London.

TEA.—In consequence of the arrival of recent telegrams from the States, announcing that no steps will be taken in Congress this session towards carrying out the President's proposed imposition of Tea duty; our Tea market has collapsed, and operations since we wrote last have been nominal, not exceeding 260 piculs. Prices remain quite unchanged, and Stocks on offer are very limited.

In **SUNDRIES** we have only to mention the sale of the *Iris*' cargo of New Crop Formasan Sugar at the price we have quoted. Nothing doing in other goods and prices the same as last week.

EXCHANGE.—Business has been trifling: the quietude of both Import and Export markets naturally limiting the legitimate transactions, and no speculative financial operations having taken place.

We quote:—London, 6 months Bank 3s. 11½d. Private 3s. 11½d. Credits. 3s. 11½d. Docts. Hongkong Demand Bank ½ per cent disc. 10 days sight Private ¾ per cent disc. Shanghai Demand Bank 72 10 days sight Private 72½.
BULLION. Gold yen 386, Silver yen 404.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KORE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 5	" 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 3	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KORE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 27	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 22
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 19	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

*. The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

*. No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

*. Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

*. Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Feb. 6	Feb. 14		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Feb. 13	Feb. 21	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Jan. 4	" 23		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 19	Apr. 8	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	Dec. 28	" 17		M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 12	Apr. 1	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 2			P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 28		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 19			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 10		

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Feb. 3	China	Rose	Ger. schr.	250	Takao	Jan. 18	Sugar	Netherlands Trading Co.
" 3	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,240	Kobe	Feb. 1	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 4	Hammonia	Weller	Ger. barq.	408	Takao		Sugar	Chinese.
" 4	Iris	Taylor	Brit. schr.	280	Takao		Sugar	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 5	Lorne	Mc. Culloch	Brit. str.	1,035	London		General	Wilkin & Robison.
" 5	Alaska	Howard	Am. str.	4,010	San Francisco	Jan. 3	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 5	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	" 29	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 5	Volga	Rolland	Freh. str.	1,502	Hongkong	" 29	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 6	Kiushiu Maru	Hay	Jap. str.	690	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 6	Akitsu Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	1,146	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 7	Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Jap. str.	1,870	Shanghai & ports	" 30	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 7	Oceanic	Metcalf	Brit. str.	3,700	Hongkong		Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 7	Hattie N. Bangs	E. Bangs	Am. barq.	587	New York		Kerosine	C. & J. Tdg. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Am. str. *Alaska*, from San Francisco:—Lieut. J. Franklin, and Mrs. Franklin, Jas. P. Hazard, I. Mariani, Miss Alice Schunacke, Miss Alice Cooley, Miss Bessie Houston, Chief Eng. J. B. Carpenter. For Hongkong:—Rev. T. G. Selby; and 167 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Capt. Law, Mrs. Nakano, Messrs. Cooper, Schepel, Gasper, Kawakami, Fatsuka, Asumi, Watanabe, Russ Stokes, J. Gorham, H. J. Weston, Winekler, Nakaoka, Godai, Nakamikado, Sawawara, Davidson, Meyer, Ikeda, Nakamura, Numasaki, and Fugito in cabin; and 170 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. H. Olssen.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* from Hongkong:—Mr. Mallory in cabin. For San Francisco: Rev. Bishop Wiley wife, and child, and Mr. F. F. Elwell in cabin; and 2 Europeans, and 28 Chinese in the steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S. S. "Cairnsmuir," Dec. 3; S.S. "Glenorchy," Dec. 10; S.S. "Caldera," Dec. 10; S.S. "Perim," Dec. 18.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Bertha Marion," July 30; "Fair Leader," September 25; "Sumner B. Mead," October 26; "Laira," November 21.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Aureola," Sept. 19.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Midnight," July 27; "Ladoga," Sep. 20; "Rainbow," Dec. 2.

FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 28; "August," Oct. 16.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—O. & O. "Belgie," January 19.

FROM ANTWERP:—"Hotspur," August 25.

FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Glenroy," S.S. "Glamis Castle."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. Feb. 23rd; Hongkong M. M. str. Feb. 17th; America O. & O. str. Feb. 11th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. str. Feb. 17th.

CARGO:—Per Am. str. *Alaska*, from San Francisco:—1,720 packages. Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—2,727 packages.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure \$227,620.00.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* from Hongkong:—3,792 packages.

REPORTS:—The German schooner *China* reports.—Left Takao on 18th Jan. Experienced heavy gale off Formosa. Passed Rock Island on 14th: from thence to Kanonsaki light westerly wind, and up the Channel till arrival in port, thick rainy weather and N.E. winds: anchored at 6 P.M. Sunday, 3rd, 16 days out. Brit. sch. *Iris* and Ger. barque *Hammonia* are beating up.

The British steamer *Oceanic* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 1st February, at 3.05 P.M. Moderate monsoons, and Northerly winds. Passage 5 days and 17 hours.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Feb. 2	Argentino	Barnett	Brit. str.	915	Kobe	Feb. 4	General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 2	Meiji Maru	Peters	Jap. str.	1,010	South Coast		Stores	Lighthouse Dep't.
" 4	Suminoe Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	854	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 4	Laura A. Burnham	Phillips	Am. schr.	600	Melbourne		Rice	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 4	Evelyn	Knowles	Brit. barq.	704	Kobe		General	Gutschow & Co.
" 5	Bombay	Briscoe	Brit. str.	1,327	Hongkong	Feb. 12	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 5	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,346	Kobe	" 6	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 6	Nagoya Maru	Connor	Jap. str.	1,260	Shanghai & ports	" 6	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 7	Lombardian	Chapman	Brit. barq.	718	United Kingdom		Rice	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 7	Alaska	Howard	Am. str.	4,010	Hongkong		Mails and general	P. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Bombay* for Hongkong:—Mr. Denkin, Mrs. Yamashita Torin, and five Chinese on Deck.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Schmucker, Miss Cooley, Miss Houston, Lieut. and Mrs. Franklin, Vicomte de Lavour, Mr. and Mrs. Kasa and child, Mr. and Mrs. Kurobe, Capt. Conner, Messrs. J. Wilson; Hafto, Naito, M. Bazing, Yoshida, Kawamata, Flint, Takasaki, Hirabes, Sakayama, Atkinson, Nishiike, Patterson, and Bloomfield.

LOADING:—*Messenger*, for New York, quick despatch.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Tanna, for Hongkong and Europe, February 11th.—M. M. Co.

Oceanic, for San Francisco, February 10th.—O. & O. Co.

Kokomo Maru, for Shanghai and ports, February 13th.—M. B. S. S. Co.

Takachiho Maru, for Hakodate, February 5th.—M. B. S. S. Co.

Hiogo Maru, for Kobe, February 10th.—M. B. S. S. Co.

Galley of Lorne, for Kobe and Nagasaki, February 11th.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Lorne, for Kobe, quick despatch.—Wilkin & Robison.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. February 19th: for Hongkong M. M. str. February 12th: for America O. O. str. February 10th: for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. February 13th: for Kobe, M. B. Co. str. *Hiogo Maru*, Feb. 10, for Hakodate, M. B. Co. str. *Takachiho Maru* Feb. 5th.

CARGOES:—Per Brit. str. *Bombay*, for Hongkong:—For London 47 bales Silk.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure \$719,648.74.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Akitashima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,751	Hakodate	Feb. 6	M. B. Co.	
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Laid up.
Galley of Lorne	Mc. Donald	British steamer	1,289	London	Nov. 21	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Kobe and Nagasaki.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Repairing.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steamer	1,879	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 7	M. B. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Horai Maru	Frank	Japanese steamer	600	Yokkaichi	Jan. 17	M. B. Co.	
Kinshiu Maru	Hay	Japanese steamer	690	Hakodate	Feb. 6	M. B. Co.	
Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Japanese steamer	1,240	Kobe	Feb. 3	M. B. Co.	Kobe.
Lorne	Mc. Culloch	British steamer	1,035	London	Feb. 5	Wilkin & Robison	Kobe.
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong	Feb. 5	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Suminoura Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	925	Sendai	Jan. 16	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. Co.	Hakodate.
Tanais	De la Marcella	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	Jan. 19	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	Feb. 5	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
SAILING SHIPS.							
Auriga	Messer	British barque	650	Cardiff	Jan. 18	M. M. Co.	
China	Rose	German schooner	250	Takao	Feb. 3	Netherlands Trading Co.	
Coriolanus	Cawse	British steamer	1,045	Nagasaki	Jan. 24	Captain.	For fr'ght ch'ter.
Fire Queen	Hamilton	British barque	769	Cardiff	Jan. 4	Findlay Richardson & Co.	For fr'ght. or ch'ter.
Hammonia	Weller	German barque	408	Takao	Feb. 4	Chinese.	
Hudson	Vaughan	American barque		New York	Jan. 23	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Hattie N. Bangs	E. Bangs	American barque	587	New York	Feb. 7	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Iris	Taylor	British schooner	280	Takao	Feb. 4	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands.	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Lotta	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Messenger	Gilkey	American ship	1,027	Hakodate	Dec. 15	Smith, Baker & Co.	New York.
Otago	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
S. E. Bearse	Oakes	Am. barque	607	Philadelphia	Feb. 2	L. Kniffier & Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Alert	4	541	Sloop	Commander R. Boyd Captain Buller, C.B. Captain Dumas Vense
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1405	Corvette	
FRENCH—Cosmao	12	1900	Corvette	

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon	Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements	Singapore, Penang.
Java	Batavia, Sourabaya.
China	Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan	Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.

RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

Chairman—H. HOPPIUS, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, A. McIvor Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., Ed. Tobin, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpotts, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " .6 " " 4 "

" " " " .3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia:

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,

PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.

MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
(ESTABLISHED 1821.)

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " " " " " " "	6 " " " " " "	1	" "
" " " " " " " "	3 " " " " " "	½	" "
" " " " " " " "	1 " " " " " "	¼	" "
" " " " " " " "	10 days " " " " "	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " "	.3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE**
INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month
June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two
drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " " 250 "
	Ticket \$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

GRAND HOTEL, NO. 20, BUND, YOKOHAMA.
AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 7.]

February 16, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

CHINA.

THOUGH Japan enjoys the advantage of insular position in the midst of a vast ocean, her good fortune in this respect by no means exempts her from the dangers, or frees her from the responsibilities which oppress nations, as they do individuals. The isolation which she once so jealously maintained is a thing of the past, blown into the limbo of lost illusions by steam, electricity and gunpowder, and her existence as an independent nation depends on her ability to construe and accept the phrase of Terence:—

‘Homo sum: humani nihil a me alienum puto.’

The contraction of space and the annihilation of time have made the nations of Europe and America her near neighbours: Russia threatens her on the North, and on the West she has, in China, a doubtful ally. She has lately sent thither a resident Embassy, and, more recently has thence received one; but her Treaty was the outcome of a compromise which only just saved her from a war; her relations with Liukiu and Corea may at any time lead her into discussion and dispute; and it therefore most seriously behoves Japanese statesmen to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the condition and resources of a neighbouring State, of which we are convinced that they now know even less than ourselves.

It is perhaps fortunate for the rest of the world that China so little knows her own strength, and that so large a class of her rulers think it to their interest to keep her weak. The Abbé Huc demonstrated the danger to mankind which would ensue from the rise to power of a great military genius in this gigantic empire, capable of utilizing the vast armies which could be raised; and with ambition to lead them, disciplined and armed as they could be, to the conquest of Asia. But, if we recollect aright, the writer contented himself with frightening his readers; we may now do somewhat to allay their fear by sketching the actual state of affairs existing in the Empire. Without attributing to any of them the thought of aggression, it is a fact that the foremost, the most intelligent and most advanced of Chinese statesmen have long seen that centralization of power has become of the first necessity to the Empire, absolutely indispensable to the dynasty. But they recognize, or are recognizing the fact that however strong the need, it cannot now be met. So vast is the extent of the country, that its population consists of different races, bound together, it is true, by the ties of a common history and a common language, and owing allegiance to a common centre of sovereignty in Peking. But so great are the differences between men of the North, South and West, in customs, dialects, and original blood, that they feel no common interests. Divergences of creed, of course, exercise also their separating effect. This extreme looseness of bond is even shown in provinces actually contiguous; each being perfectly indifferent to the needs or condition of the other, and even manifesting a dislike, which frequently

culminates in hatred. When Canton was besieged and taken by the allied forces in 1858, the neighbouring provinces gave no assistance to Yeh, in either men, arms, or money; and when, in 1860, Tientsin was occupied and the Capital lay at our mercy, its Tartar guards were left alone to attempt its defence, the population of the surrounding country and the provincial army of Chihli showing an absolute indifference to the event; the country people quite cheerfully, indeed, complying with the requisitions of the invading troops. Occasionally, it is true, in the case of internal rebellion, the Governor of one province detaches troops and munitions of war by Imperial order to assist in reducing the disturbance in another; but such instances to the contrary are rare, and the general fact remains that each province of China manages, and cares only for, its own affairs. The taxes collected are not remitted to the central Government, nor even accounted for, a trifle only, beyond the land-tax and the salt *gabell*, being sent for the expenses of the Court, and the struggle is perpetual between the provinces and the Capital, as to the amount of this tribute. Government by de-localized officials, with all the disadvantages which we pointed out as attaching to the system, in the first number of this Review, originated in the anxiety at Peking to squeeze as much as possible out of the provincial treasuries: but so universally has spread the cancer of corruption, that this device has long failed of effect; and as, under long minorities, and palace intrigue, the Central Government has been growing weaker and weaker, the provincial governors appear to deem that unable to punish, which is powerless to defend, and sending, year by year, fewer taels and more excuses, virtually set it at defiance. And if in accord on no other point, on this the prefects have the complete sympathy of the people. A profound impression has been made by the impact of foreign force, upon popular opinion. The news that ‘barbarian’ troops had taken and held for a year Canton; had threatened Peking and burnt the Summer Palace; and later, had invaded Formosa,—and that in each case, the Central Government had to buy peace with sycee—have naturally enough excited a feeling of contempt little compatible with allegiance in the minds of the people who are no more to be deceived by the *Peking Gazette* than ourselves.

Of late years, too, the physical aspect of the country has been changing, and its resources shrinking, to so great an extent, that it is more than doubtful whether the Government can be strengthened, the Dynasty preserved, or the Empire itself saved from dissolution, by the only means of doing so—moderately centralizing the power. Instead of the reserve of thirty million of taels, which used to lie in the bullion vaults of the palace at Peking, the treasure has dwindled to a fourth or fifth of the amount, wasted under stress of foreign indemnities, rebellion, and famine. And the supplies which it should have augmented have been entirely cut off, as

provinces have been desolated by invasion, disafforestation, increasing difficulty of irrigation and consequent distress.

The famine which for four years past has been slaying the people by millions is no result of a single eccentricity of Nature, such as the failure of a monsoon or a great flood; but is the inevitable sequel of years, of centuries, of misgovernment and neglect. It has reached its climax, but it is a climax from which there will be no descension. From 1869 to 1877, out of the eight years' harvests, six have been bad in varying degree. Shensi, Honan, Shansi and Chihli are now in the frightful condition depicted in the Rev. Mr. Richards' too graphic letter; Kansuh is but little better off; in Shangtung, two-thirds of Kweichow, one third of Anwei, and in Yunnan, the dearth is not universal, but suffering is great: Fokien and Chekiang have but one-half to two-thirds of a crop, the two Kwangs two-thirds of an average crop: in the west coast provinces and even in Szechuen, the garden of the Empire, the crops are also short. And these failures are not of the rice crop only: corn, peas, millet, all that could be used as substitutes for the people's common food, have suffered with the rice. And scarcity begets famine, for the people eat the seed corn, the leaves, the bark of trees, and each year sees the evil grow. There seems little reason to doubt that the whole of North and North Western China will, in a very few years, become like Central Asia, a dessicated, tree-less, stony waste, with a few oases, supporting but a sparse population. Nothing but a complete and comprehensive system of water storage, tree-planting and irrigation, can restore, after a long period of persevering toil, vigour to the land or mitigate the climate: and for this, where is the directing mind, whence are to come the means? The economic distress, therefore, of the Empire being so great as to be past remedy, totally incapacitating it from resisting invasion from without, or repressing rebellion within; and the Government being unable to give appreciable relief to its own starving people;—the idea of any danger from China's newly formed and modern armed army and navy can be but chimerical. If the dynasty can be saved by a change of capital to some more central city further south, a movement generally and openly discussed at present in Peking,—the change being availed of to inaugurate the centralisation policy advocated by Tseng kwo fan, the great reformer of the epoch, his pupils Shên pao chên, Li hung chang, Tso t'sung t'ang, and others;—and if the Empire be strengthened by contraction, the North and North Western territory being left alone for a time, and the poor remnant of their populations removed to more fertile districts: then, but not otherwise, might China become a formidable power.

Such contingencies are not impossible. The abandonment of the Northern provinces appears to be an event looming in a near future, and the transfer of the capital would then follow of necessity. Should this be accompanied by the inauguration of the policy of the reformers we have named, we should have grave reason for disquietude: for unfortunately, in the minds of these great statesmen, is associated, with the hope of saving China from dissolution, that of at the same time expelling foreigners and foreign trade, and reclosing China, peaceably or forcibly, into her ancient isolation from the rest of the world. It is to this unhappy error that is not remotely due much of China's present distress. Had the Treaty of Tientsin been frankly accepted by her rulers, and foreign enterprise and capital freely admitted into the interior of the country, eighteen years' work at the development of her mineral wealth and improvement of internal communication would,—so keen and accurate are the commercial instincts of her industrious people,—have in all human probability saved her from her present agony. A thousand miles of railway would have enormously facilitated the exchange of com-

modities and greatly modified provincial prejudices; have enabled a strengthened Government to have checked, at small expense, riots which, swollen into rebellions, have depleted its treasury; would have carried food to people afflicted by transient scarcity, which would have prevented their devouring the seed for the next year's crop; would have cheapened goods all over the country, and greatly increased her export and import trades and, consequently, the Customs Revenue. The opening of her coal mines would have given China a new and valuable article of export and would have saved her from disafforestation, the cause, more than perhaps any other, of the desolation of some of her fairest provinces. The money spent on obsolete artillery, and small arms of a dozen different patterns, with its ammunition *not* to match; or for arsenals and building yards, and their costly products, to defend her against nations who sought to bombard her only with bales of yarn; might have been spent in afforesting her denuded hills, clearing her choked streams, restoring her ancient canals, storing her wasted wealth of water, and converting deserts into rich and smiling fields.

But these things were not to be. The not unnatural dread of a despotic government, of alien race, with so loose a hold on its subject population,—that commerce and freedom of trade would sow the seeds of representative institutions and liberty of thought;—two lengthened minorities; feminine jealousy and intrigue; the fear of entrusting power to any master mind, such as Tseng or Li, lest he should prove a Cromwell rather than a Washington; the opposition of corrupt provincial officials to the efforts of patriotic reformers; and mainly the unfortunate misdirection of effort of the reforming party itself;—these causes have all combined to bring China to its present state of helplessness and hopelessness, for which we must confess our inability to suggest any applicable remedy. Her future prospects can hardly be forecast at the end of so long an essay on her present condition in the pages of a weekly Review. But her present condition, and the causes that have brought her to it are by no means without interest to foreign merchants, and surely deserve careful study by Japanese statesmen who so love their country as to be anxious to take warning by China's errors; and who have it now in their power to so guide Japan that she may not have to share her fate.

AFFORESTATION.

NOTHING so easy as to destroy. A torch, in the small white hand of a woman, as when Thais,

'Like another Helen, fired another Troy,'

suffices to lay a palace in ashes: the little rift in an embankment, through which drop at first what a poetic fancy might deem tears for the misery to come, in one short hour is the bed of a raging torrent, through which sweep the contents of a reservoir, with Death and Devastation riding on its waves. We have shown how disafforestation works in what,—measured by the period of a nation's life—is an interval of time almost as brief: our task to-day is to show the Japanese Government how they can learn to repair its ravages by afforestation, and how prevent further evil by reviving, and re-inforcing,—with modern foreign experience to aid them—their own old Forest Laws.

For, reference to the Legacy of Iyeyas * shows clearly enough that legislation for the regulation, preservation and growth of forests is no new suggestion in Japan. In Cap. LXVI:—'Regarding thoroughfares'—the 'great sea road' is said to have thirty-six feet as its proper width,—'but, including the trees on either side, it should have an uniform width of one hundred and twenty'—thus providing an ample margin on each side of the avenue of forty-

* We quote Lowder's translation—the earliest and, collated as it was from several copies, in our opinion the best.

two feet for the spread of the roots. Eighteen and sixty feet are the corresponding measurements given for the 'small sea road'; and twelve feet and thirty for 'cross-roads and horse roads.' And this is said to be 'an ancient regulation handed down from Oinos'ke, an ancestor of the Tokugawa.'

Two succeeding sections of this valuable document we quote in their entirety:—

"CAP. LXVIII.—Dwellings shall not be erected on "ground under cultivation by husbandmen, as the growth "of bamboos and trees round the walls is prejudicial to the "crops.

"When disputes arising from a question of new and old "plantations is referred for decision, the test is in the "height of the trees forming the enclosure of such planta- "tions.

"If they are seen to be three feet high, the plantation "may be known to be an old one; if they are not three feet "high, the plantation is a new one, and the trees should be "cut down, and the party in the wrong confined to his "house for one hundred days.

"CAP. LXIX.—If the boughs of large trees in the "immediate neighbourhood of villages in which the houses "are built consecutively, become so large as to interfere "with the drying of grain, or to interrupt the payment of "annual tribute, in the first place the branches shall be "cut off; and if that is not sufficient the whole tree shall "be cut down.

"Overshadowing branches should be lopped off an- "nually."

These extracts show clearly enough that in and before the time of Iyeyas, timber was properly cared for in Japan. Had the art of Forestry been neglected in Europe, we should have suffered in proportion to the amount of our neglect; fortunately it has been fostered for many ages. In Germany, the first attempts at systematic planting were made in the fourteenth century; in England the earliest effort appears to have been made in the sixteenth; in Japan systematic planting must have existed in the fifteenth, for many of the avenue trees in the Nikko and other districts show an age of 384 years.

At the present time in Europe, we find that there exist forest departments under the governments of Germany, England, France, Russia, Austria, Italy and Switzerland. Forest legislation and organization vary in the different countries, but they all tend to the one common end, viz., the production and conservation of the largest possible amount of forest; we accordingly find that the various soils, climates, aspects &c. are intently studied, with a view to the growing of timbers most suitable to the requirements of the country, the welfare of the peoples interested therein, and lastly with a view to direct profit.

The forests in Europe are either governmental, communal or private; but all are subject to a certain amount of legislation. They are technically designated as either pure forest, with natural reproduction or without; mixed, or coppice with or without standards. The mixed plantations are the most successful in England, they are more economic, the lengths of rotation varying within wide limits, according to the variety of trees, climate, soils and aspects. These being carefully observed, result in highly productive forests or plantations. For example, the 'spinnies' near Haslemere, in Surrey, whence is got wood for hoops of casks and similar purposes, where toughness and strength have to be combined with flexibility and durability, pay close on £10 sterling per acre, whereas the total cost per acre is only eighteen shillings—not counting, of course, interest on capital while the wood is growing.

Now the organization of a Forest department in the Empire of Japan, ought not to entail much expense on the Government of the country. The construction of a map, shewing the area, age, value, and variety of all the forest lands in the Empire; the division of the Empire into Forest districts and sub-districts; an addition to the map

showing the area, soil, and aspect of all the waste lands, (designating all land as waste that is not either under cultivation, forest or pasture), and the framing of a suitable code of Forest laws, are preliminaries which should be commenced without delay. For this purpose the Government have, we believe, at hand all the necessary staff and materials. Any direct tax on cultivators or conservators of forests should be at once removed; in order to stimulate private enterprise to the utmost. If communal forests are in existence, the formation of nurseries in each locality should be insisted upon, in order that planting, where necessary, should be commenced with as little delay as possible. Of course in some districts, a great deal may be done by natural reproduction, but almost invariably it requires to be supplemented by planting. Information should be collected from all parts of the Empire, as to the cost of planting; say at *per* thousand *tsudos*, giving the variety planted, method of planting, age of seedlings and all other details. Judging from English figures given above, and considering the lower cost of labour in Japan: the expense of all this should be but trifling—while the benefit to the country, to say nothing of the direct pecuniary return, would be enormous.

Regulations should then be made to protect the existing forests against denudation, fire, and insects. Instructions should be issued in a popular and easily intelligible form, detailing the various methods of planting in Japan; the foreign modes of pit planting and slitting, both in the **L** and **T** and **X** forms, with descriptions of the special implements employed. A list should be given of the most valuable woods in Japan, with information on natural reproduction, the cultivation of seedlings, and the necessity of planting them strong enough to outstrip the natural herbage, and to withstand heavy snow or wind storms. The construction of fire-paths and forest roads, drainage and thinning should be explained, and also the relative advantages of high, mixed, and coppice forest. The cultivation of bamboo and osier beds for the protection of river banks would also find a fitting place in such "Instructions." The introduction of exotic trees should be discouraged, as bountiful Nature has already given to Japan all that she wants, without her people's time and money being wasted on experiments always costly and nearly always resulting in failure. Examples of forest zones should be quoted; as Tsuruga Gulf shore, from Numadzu to Oomaisaki;—Nantaisan (Nikko); the forests of Fusiyama, &c. The 'Instructions' should also contain chapters on forest administration, working and transporting the timber by land and water. In other chapters should be explained to the people the absolute necessity of legislation, even in the cases of communal or private forests, for the purpose of averting from the forester and cultivator the inevitable evils attendant on disafforestation and neglect. On the other hand should be clearly shown the advantages of afforestation. The disadvantages which attend the present barbarous system of burning the grass-clad hills, and the necessity for enforcing remedies for the same by legislation, should also find a place in such a volume; as should advice to eradicate bamboo scrub and plume grass, and keeping their growth, for the purposes of thatching, basket and bag work, within stated reserves. And especially should be expounded the indirect advantages to the whole Empire,—(advantages which may be easily enumerated by reference to our article last week on disafforestation, for the converse evils detailed) by preserving forests which, though they would not pay to work for timber, yet confer on the landlord, the farmer, the hunter and the fisherman, the joiner and the carpenter, the manufacturer and the merchant,—even on the housewife,—manifold and great benefits. And amongst these might be enumerated, and by no means to unsympathetic readers, the charm of their ever-changing beauty. For the Japanese farmer, even the

poor labourer, loves his native tree-clad hills, and is the happier for their loveliness; and even in the humblest cot, on screen or panel or scroll, may be seen some counterfeit presentment—of waving tress of wisteria, bunch of plum blossom, or branchlet of the many-tinted maple when Autumn has shorn 'their green honours from the tranquil trees.'

To return to practical utility. As an example of what is in actual process in another part of the globe, we will quote the case of the British Empire in India, where various large sections of the country had been cruelly disafforested, previous to coming under our sway. These are now placed under the Forest Department, and are in process of afforestation. Ultimate success is certain, but afforestation requires the expenditure of much time, patience and perseverance. The result will however amply repay all, for districts that are now arid deserts, will become smiling gardens, capable of supporting large populations; forest reserves, replacing the wastes, will give forth their wealth to the cultivator, in the form of pure springs, rich loam, shelter, cheap fuel and forest food, while the community at large will benefit by the cheap production of timber, dyestuffs, gums, resin, medicines &c. and by the improved climate and more equable temperature.

Meanwhile, the Imperial Government of Japan, which represents the wants and cares, the hopes and aspirations of some thirty millions of our fellow men, has before it the pleasing task of ministering to these wants, of aiding the realization of these hopes. In this particular instance of Forestry, they have to consider the objects of Forest Legislation. They have to determine:—first, what lands it is absolutely necessary to replant and keep under forest:—secondly, they have to organize a proper system of control of the communal forests:—and thirdly, they have to decide upon and adopt the best and most lasting means of stimulating private enterprise in the direction of forest culture. If they fail in, or ignore their task, they simply cast an almost everlasting blight upon the ultimate prospects of their native land. Farewell to bountiful rice harvests of round well-filled grain, to brilliant silk, to perfumed tea! As the soil of Japan becomes denuded of its timber, its steep hill-sides will slide into the valleys, its rivers will discharge their lithic contents over the plains, and the clustering myriad isles of Dai Nippon, now among the fairest gems of Amphitrite's crown, will be converted into howling wildernesses. The whole interior will cease to afford means of support to population. Landlords, farmers, peasants—merchants, traders, artisans,—their occupations gone, will have ceased to exist, and round her desolate coasts will be scattered a sparse fringe of rude, impoverished, humble fishermen—humbled by adversity, roughened by hard, prosaic, unlovely toil.

Already are visible the evil effects of partial disafforestation in the islands of Hondo, Sikok, and Kiushiu, and in the archipelagoes of the Inland Sea. Where, in these regions, is there a river, or stream, with a navigable bar? Where is the river that has not, again and again, overthrown its embankments, and discharged, its stony contents broadcast over the land, to the dismay, often the ruin of the cultivator? The same catastrophe is to be observed in the volcanic island of Sicily and also in Calabria, dry river beds of rolling stones and shingle in all their ugly desolation. Elsewhere we quote from a great authority another instance in France. In all, cause and effect are the same; and in Japan, at least, it is evident that the remedy has never been thought of. Why do we see narrow-minded Engineers pottering about the mouths of the various rivers; for instance, the Shinanogawa, at Niigata, the Osaka river, and elsewhere, seeking for a means of clearing their ever accumulating bars, while the primary cause of the difficulty,—so obvious,—remains without an attempt to check it? First plant your hills, and thereby prevent the perennial

flow of the material which creates the bar; then clear and control your river channels; thirdly and lastly, disperse the materials forming the bars,—which will then be an easier task, natural forces having done part of it, so soon as the Engineer had set them to work along the river's course. In the island of Yezo—now called Hokkaido,—where Nature still holds her sway, we have an example of what she does if not interfered with. We have the Ishicari river with a *minimum* of twelve feet of water at its mouth, the Ookatchi with nine. Neither of these have the watershed, or the volume of water of either the Shinanogawa or the Osaka river, yet the bars of these latter are impassable at low tide for anything drawing four feet of water.

The root of the evil is disafforestation, and its cure is certain, inexpensive, easy and immediately apparent. It cannot of course be expected that, in these columns, we should attempt to teach the sciences of restoring either rivers or forests in all their details: this is to be done in the college lecture room, on the mountain side, in the river's bed: our duty ends when, as we have done, we have broadly diagnosed the evil and shown how it may be redressed.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

THE gentleman who addresses the *Japan Gazette* under the pseudonym of 'Municeps' is a disputant with whom it is a pleasure to argue: a type of newspaper correspondent exceedingly rare in this part of the East. He sees two roads to a common goal, and prefers one; but, recognizing another's right of choice to the other, does not think it necessary or advisable to justify his own selection by ridiculing or vilifying his opponent. It is too much to hope that the *Japan Gazette* and the *Japan Times* will be able to set the fashion of arguing thus, in the manner of the European press; but—followed or not—it is something to our common credit to have given an example.

'Municeps' differs from us on a vital point:—he would have the Council entirely representative of the rate-payers, whether property-owners or property-occupiers, without admixture of the official element, except as represented by the Governor, or Vice-Governor of Yokohama. And he astutely seeks to enlist the Consuls themselves on his side, by pointing out that we propose to increase their already sufficiently onerous and insufficiently rewarded duties. This position of his we shall proceed to attack; and think we can carry it by showing that such a Council as he would wish to see formed has never and can never be made to work; (and we may remark, in passing, that we think the Consuls would have more trouble and larger addition to their labour, if his scheme could be carried out, than under the system we prefer);—and finally, we hope to convince him and the public, that the alternative proposal we advocate will give us a form of Municipal Government that will work, and work well. We have the immense advantage that experience is wholly in our favour, and against him.

In proving this latter point, we shall have to trespass on our readers' patience, by recapitulating the whole municipal history of Yokohama: but, as we shall do this succinctly, and as the record should be before all those whom the writer hopes to see soon assembled, in public meeting, for the consideration of the Municipal question, the time given to writing or reading it will not be thrown away.

The times before 1862 are pre-historic, and no archaeologist has given to the world a palimpsest of their records. A dim tradition lingers yet of an attempt at Municipal Government by some half-dozen out of the score of foreign residents; but there being nothing to govern, nor any means of governing, it shrivelled into naught before the inextinguishable laughter of the remaining fourteen. In 1862, arose Mr. Kingdon, the first Municipal Reformer,

who having made a small beginning, by cleansing his own compound and bund frontage, gradually induced the other residents to pay him small subscriptions, which he managed to stretch sufficiently to cover the mere scavenging of the place fairly enough. As *ginrikishas* then were not, as no one had a carriage, and every man had a pair of thigh boots, the spaces between the irregular lines of compound palings called streets were good enough for us; and as for lighting, we had twenty 'chochings' to one 'sinologue' and every resident with the least respect for himself spent a *doo* or two per month in maintaining a feeble oil lamp over his gate. The 'joyous life' still existed for our Japanese neighbours, trade was brisk, and profits were large; there were no impecunious burglars, and consequently, no police. This happy state of things continued during '63 and '64; a scavenger *corps*, under the command of the celebrated Rokonoski being formed, and Messrs. Macdonald and Piquet efficiently assisting Mr. Kingdon in the care of the settlement. Yokohama, however, having meanwhile attracted a larger foreign population and a more fastidious, the state of the streets, which, on the occasion of a very wet summer, were about eighteen inches under water for a week, attracted the attention of Mr. Winchester, H.B.M. Consul. This estimable gentleman hit upon the happy expedient of making moats round each block of buildings, totally unconnected with each other, and which had no fall or outlet whatever; but which certainly served the purpose of holding the water which would otherwise have continued to cover the roads. These he was pleased to call 'drains.' They served a purpose very foreign to that for which he designed them. The native builders and carpenters perambulated the settlement, watching with a stealthy joy the foundations of houses and godowns being sapped; and their contentment attracting the attention of property-holders, while the presence of a fleet and garrison, and the establishment of grog-shops, having meanwhile suggested the creation of some better police than a corporal's patrol, the first serious attempt at self-government was made by the community.

From the point of view of traditional facetiousness, they chose an unlucky day for its inauguration; for the first of April 1865 witnessed the election of the Yokohama Municipal Council. The 'wisdom of our ancestors' was proved by the event. A Colonel Fisher, then American Consul, conceived the most unhappy idea that 'proportionate representation'—an error into which 'Municipes' falls, we remark—was indispensable. Portugal, therefore,—then represented by a Consul, a compositor in a printing office, a *valet* and a flag-staff,—was taken as the unit, and a cumbrous representative body of eleven Englishmen, four or five Americans, three or four Frenchmen, and other representatives of European races in proportion, amounting altogether to twenty-six, assembled for deliberation in the only place big enough to hold them, the British Consulate court-room. Mr. Fisher was supported by his colleagues in this foolish proposal, against the repeated and urgent protests of the Land-Renters, who wanted a working body of seven members, elected irrespective of nationality. It is hardly needful to say that, in such a Council, with such a very little work for them to do, there was much talk with no results. The *Japan Times*, we must confess with regret,—(it was then in the 'salad days' of its existence)—so burlesqued its extremely funny debates, in which propriety *Puich* was its accomplice, that the question of 'gagging the press' by excluding our reporter, himself a conscript father, took precedence of a debate on the Budget, and a Council meeting too often degenerated into 'sound and fury, signifying nothing.'

Yet Finance was the *crux*. Prior to the election of the Twenty-Six, the Consuls, through their *Doyen*, Mr. Winchester, had informed the Land-Renters that Twenty *per centum* of the ground Rents was to constitute the Council's

income. A minority of his auditory—'tis always the minority which detects these blots—had strongly protested against the acceptance of any such proposition, but in vain. In vain the sensible and practical minority—pointed out that the ground rent paid to the Japanese Government was more than thirty-seven times as much as that paid by our fellow-merchants across the water to the Chinese. That, in consideration of receiving this most exorbitant ground-rent, the native government stood pledged, according to the Land Regulations of 1860, and subsequent Conventions, to "keep in thorough order the streets, roads, and jetties," to "make when necessary sewers or drains;" and to provide a "Police for the maintenance of security and order within the Foreign Settlement of Yokohama." That, having signally and notoriously failed in fulfilling these engagements, they should not have been permitted by our Consuls, the legally constituted guardians of our rights, to make such an excellent bargain for themselves as retaining four-fifths of the money for mere rent, leaving us with the totally insufficient one-fifth wherewith to do all the work. And that sixty *per centum* was the lowest figure at which the duty should be taken over. Mr. Winchester informed us that we were called together to receive the income and the responsibility, not to argue about it: but, for our comfort told us, that the twenty *per cent* of two years' back rents would be handed to us, in addition to the percentage of the current year.

We started gaily enough: formed our Finance, Police and Sanitary Committees and requested them to report. The first reported that 20 *per cent* on Ground rents of \$27,000 being \$5,400 and license fees from taverns and groggeries amounting to \$4,300, we had \$9,700 to spend. Out of this, the Police Committee wanted \$12,000 and the Street and Sanitary \$7,800, altogether close upon double our income. Actually, they spent about \$12,000. It can readily be conceived that at this rate—and with a great falling off in our income from grog-shops' licenses, in consequence of reduction of the foreign military and naval force, our reserve fund was rapidly exhausted. The population was meanwhile growing, and an attempt to put on a house-tax and wharfage-dues being resisted, we found our estimates for 1867 \$18,000, while our assets were only \$8,000—and incontinently resigned. A meeting of Land-Renters was held, at which the 'faithful few' fought hard to get the grant of money increased to 60 *per cent*, with which business could have been carried on; but a stupid majority again beat us, and control of the settlement was abandoned by foreigners.

In November, 1867 Mr. Sidney Locoek, Secretary to the British Legation, announced to us the arrangement come to between the Foreign Ministers and Native Government, closing his despatch with the paragraph quoted last week, which reserved the power of again changing this arrangement, should it not be found to work well. It worked extremely badly, and after an ineffective remonstrance in 1868,—in May, 1869, a Memorial was sent in to the Foreign Ministers, quoting Mr. Locoek's promise of revision if necessary, elaborately showing the necessity, and giving as an Appendix a Draft Budget, showing how, with an income of 80 *per cent* of the Ground Rents, supplemented by about \$5,000 of license fees of various sorts, the place could be efficiently lighted, drained, paved and policed. The arguments were not to be refuted, the figures were admitted correct; but we asked for a Charter, and we asked that the Municipal Government should be wholly in the hands of residents, unless a Consul or two were elected on his merits, not *ex-officio*:—and this condemned the scheme, which was accordingly shelved.

Another reason for the failure of this attempt to regain self-government was that,—the Restoration party having hardly had time to show their metal, a feeling was general

that they ought to have a chance. They began to use their new brooms well enough. They gave us drains, promised us gas-lamps, sold us the Bluff and repaired our streets and roads with some of the purchase money. But as foreign villas began to spot the hills, native burglars began to try the strength of door and window fastenings, and a number of very impudent and leisurely executed robberies, both there and in the settlement having proved the total inefficiency of the native police, in 1874 another attempt was made to regain Municipal control on the basis of the Memorial of 1869. But as the large majority of the residents had not been robbed, the intelligent minority again failed to get a hearing and at a 'thinly-attended' meeting, finally 'threw up the sponge.' Is it likely that any better result will attend this new agitation for Municipal Reform?

We fully explained the views of this journal in our last:—and, the history of the subject we have just sketched showing clearly that to get Municipal Government on the Shanghai basis is hopeless;—is it not worth while trying to get it on that of the Osaka Convention? Surely an afternoon might be spent to advantage in discussing the question. The writer has in his possession all the records which any meeting, or any committee, can want for reference, and would willingly undertake the labour of preparing a draft budget for the debate. Proper Municipal Government certainly appears to us a very desirable object; and there seems no reason why foreigners should be worse treated in Yokohama than in Kobé. The only question for settlement is the finance; and if it can be satisfactorily shown that, under the Kobé system, the ground-rents of Yokohama will suffice to give us a good system of Municipal Government, some better reasons must be adduced by 'Municipes,' or A. B. C., or X. Y. Z., before we shall be convinced that we must perforce live here under what is, virtually, no government at all.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

OUR foreign readers will have to excuse us, and our native readers ought to thank us, for devoting so much of our space to the important question of Forestry. We know of none more vital, directly to the interests of the country and—in consequence, indirectly, to foreign trade. Japan has her warning of the evil results of disafforestation plainly before her eyes in the deplorable state of her neighbour China; we summarized them in a form, we hope sufficiently clear, in an article in last week's Review, and—this week—we indicate the path which the Government should pursue to repair past losses, and check future disaster. We cannot too strongly insist upon the necessity of immediate action and—aware of the little influence which it is possible for an anonymous writer in a so young a journal as this to exercise; we summon to our assistance two of the greatest living authorities to support and confirm our statements and our predictions—Elisée Reclus and Engène Viollet-le-Duc. M. Reclus, in his great work, "The Earth, a Descriptive History of the Life of the Globe" writes thus of the effect of disafforestation upon the rivers whose watershed are the French Alps:—

"There is probably no country in the world where this devastation goes on more rapidly than in the French Alps. The mountains of this region, and especially those which enclose the basins of the Durance and its tributaries, are in general composed of very hard rocks alternating with other beds, which easily give way under the action of the water; in every place we may notice immense cliffs resting upon bases without any solid consistence. The marls, the disintegrated schists, and the other friable matter are gradually washed away, and their fall precipitates that of the compact layers at the summit, which suddenly fall down or glide slowly into the valleys. It is, however, the improvidence of the inhabitants, and not so much the geological constitution of the soil, which is the principal cause of the devastating action of the streams. In the

mountains of Dauphiny and Provence, the slopes, most of which are now so bare, were once covered with trees and various plants which kept back the surface-water resulting from the rain or melting of the snow, by absorbing a great part of the falling moisture, and thus retaining the coating of vegetable earth over the beds of crumbling rock. During the course of centuries, the trees have been cut down by greedy speculators, and by senseless farmers who wished to add some little strips of land to the fields in the valleys and to the pastures on the summits; but when they destroyed the forest they also destroyed the very ground it stood on.

"The rain or snow, being no longer kept back upon the slopes by the roots of the trees, descends rapidly into the valley, driving before it all the *débris* torn away from the sides of the mountain. The tooth of the goat and the sheep helps to lay bare the rootlets of the herbaceous plants and the brushwood; bit by bit, the whole of the thin coating of vegetable earth is removed, the bare rock shows itself, and deep ravines are hollowed out in the cliffs and are traversed in the rainy seasons by furious torrents which once did not exist. The water which used slowly to penetrate the earth, conveying fertilising salts to the roots of the trees, now serves no other purpose than that of devastation. When the forests are gone, great furrows of erosion may be noticed opening out at intervals on the slopes; these furrows often correspond to ravines situated on the other side of the mountain, and in a comparatively short space of time, they ultimately sever the ridge of the mountain into distinct peaks, uniformly surrounded by a slope of rocks or fallen earth: summits of this kind are being formed every year. In some localities, there is not a single green bush over a space of several leagues in extent; the scanty grey-coloured pasturage is scarcely visible here and there on the slopes, and ruined houses blend with the crumbling rocks that surround them. The stream in the valley is generally nothing but a scanty rill of water winding among the heaps of stones; but these very heaps of shingle and rock have been carried down by the torrent itself in the days of its fury. In many parts of its course, the Haute Durance, which is generally not more than 30 feet wide, seems lost in the midst of an immense bed of stones, a mile and a quarter wide from bank to bank. The Mississippi itself does not equal it in dimensions.

"The devastating action of the streams in the French Alps is a very curious phenomenon in an historical point of view; for it explains why so many of the districts of Syria, Greece, Asia Minor, Africa, and Spain have been forsaken by their inhabitants. The men have disappeared along with the trees; the axe of the woodman no less than the sword of the conqueror have put an end to or transplanted entire populations. At the present time, the valleys of the Southern Alps are becoming more and more deserted, and the precise date might be approximately estimated at which the Departments of the Upper and Lower Alps will not longer have any home-born inhabitants. During the three centuries that have elapsed between 1471 and 1776, the *vigneriers* of these mountainous regions have lost a third, a half, or even as much as three-quarters of their cultivated ground; and the men have disappeared from the impoverished soil in the same proportion. From 1836 to 1866, the Upper and Lower Alps have lost 25,000 inhabitants, or nearly a tenth of their population. At the present time, in an area of 3,860 square miles, embraced between Mont Thabor and the Alps of Nice, there is not a single group of inhabitants which exceeds the number of 3,000 individuals. Barcelonnette, a most considerable place, has more than once been in danger of being carried away by the stream, the bed of which is higher than the streets of the town; the latter certainly would be still less populous were it not that the numerous functionaries necessary in every sub-prefecture tend to give it an artificial life. Without the *employés* and the custom-house officers, who almost consider themselves as exiles, the whole extent of a great portion of these mountainous regions would be nothing more than a gloomy solitude. It is the mountaineers themselves who have made and are seeking to extend this desert, which separates the tributary valleys of the Rhone from the populous plains of Piedmont. If some modern Attila, traversing the Alps, made it his business to desolate these valleys for ever, the first thing he should do would be to encourage the inhabitants in their senseless work of destruction. Is it necessary that man must ulti-

mately rid the mountains of his odious presence, so that the latter, left to the kind offices of beneficent nature, may again some day recover their forests of fir trees and their thick carpet of flower-studded turf?"

IN a country like Japan, where so many varieties of the *conifera* flourish so well, the remarks which follow, on the peculiar value of these trees, have a special worth. They are from M. Viollet-le-Duc's recently published work "Mont Blanc." It appears to us that translations of this and of M. Reclus' book, quoted above, would be of infinitely greater use than the translation of 'Wheaton's International Law'—as we hold Afforestation to be a subject of far greater moment to the people than Tariff Revision. This is what M. Viollet-le-Duc has to say on the use and value of the *conifera*:—

"Conifers would seem to have been created with a view to the purpose they serve on the slopes of the mountains. Their branches, which exhibit a constant verdure, arrest the snows, and are strongly enough attached to their trunks to enable them to support the load they have to carry. In winter we may see layers of snow eight inches or a foot thick on the palmated branches of the firs, yet which scarcely make them bend. Thus every fir is a shelf which receives the snow and hinders it from accumulating as a compact mass on the slopes. Under these conditions avalanches are impossible. When the thaws come, these small separate stores crumble successively into powder. The trunk of the conifer clings to the rocks by the help of its roots, which, like wide-spread talons, go far to seek their nourishment, binding together among them all the rolling stones. In fact, the conifer prefers a rock, settles on it, and envelopes it with its strong roots as with a net, which, stretching far and wide, go in search of neighbouring stones and attach them to the first as if to prevent all chance of their slipping down. In the interstices debris of leaves and branches accumulate, and a humus is formed, which retains the waters and promotes the growth of herbaceous vegetation.

"It is wonderful to see how, in a few years, slopes, composed of materials of all shapes, without any appearance of vegetation, become covered with thick and vigorous fir plantations; i.e. if the goats do not tear up the young shoots, and if a little rest is left to the heaps on which they grow. Then the sterile ground is clothed, and, if an avalanche occurs, it may prostrate some of the young trees and make itself a passage, but vegetation is eager to repair the damage. Does man ever aid in this work? No; he is its most dangerous enemy. Among these young conifers he sends his herds of goats, which in a few days make sad havoc, tear off the shoots, or hinder them from growing; moreover, he will cut down the slender trunks for firewood, whereas the great neighbouring forest would furnish him, in the shape of dead wood and fallen branches, with abundance of fuel."

THE age we assign to certain trees in Nikko, 384 years, is neither a guess nor a misprint. A few months ago, a large number of these trees were felled and their *annuli* were counted by three independent observers, who afterwards compared their notes. These exactly tallied, and the ages of the trees were found to be all 384 or 385 years.

DISUNION in the community will probably prevent any attempt at Municipal Reform being successful. What can be hoped for in a town, where an evidently intelligent and well-educated man writes to a newspaper and deliberately rejoices in his success in 'stumping' the place, and getting a majority to agree to try to keep things in the disgraceful state in which they are; before opportunity has been given to proposals for reform,—good-humouredly and moderately suggested—to be explained to the citizens? So Gryllus might have 'stumped' the stye to persuade his companions to resist Ulysses' motion to rescue them from Circe's enchantments!

No reform was ever effective and satisfactory that was carried without some amount of compromise; and we must confess our surprise that a community of men of business, who never carry through a single transaction without 'splitting a difference' in some way or other, cannot carry this sound commercial principle into politics. In this Review has been proposed a scheme which is, of course, not faultless, but which has at all events in its favour the *prestige* of eminent success elsewhere. In the

Gazette are proposed two alternative programmes. Instantly Gryllus goes grunting about, and gets a 'majority' to refuse to give either proposal a hearing. We should certainly have imagined that the visitation of cholera last autumn, and the apparent certainty of its return with the hot weather; re-inforced by the occurrence of a robbery and murder—would have induced Yokohama to split its differences into such little pieces that they might be all pounded up into a common good.

What a comfort it is to be able to think with the banished Coriolanus:—

'There is a world elsewhere!'

OF far greater importance to Englishmen, at all events, than either of our leading articles, which have but a comparatively local interest, is an Extract from the London *Economist* which we publish to-day: "Are we consuming our Capital?" We had only space, last week, to print the introduction: we shall go on extracting the remainder, as we receive it from London. Mr. Rathbone, an eminent Free-trader, pointed out in a letter to the London financial organ, which we strongly recommend our readers to refer to—(it appeared on November 24 and was reprinted December 1) the alarming discrepancy between Imports and Exports of the United Kingdom for 1876—the former exceeding the latter by nearly a hundred and twenty millions; and asking whether, therefore, we were not necessarily paying for what we bought with some of our immense accumulated wealth? The answer of the *Economist* is most interesting and instructive, filing down as it does, little by little, this debit balance, and showing how, in item after item, it is imaginary. We await the conclusion of the article with pleasurable feeling, and fully expect to have it proved to our perfect satisfaction, not only that what remains of it will only be *interest* on our capital; but that England might spend a great deal more without feeling it. An extremely comforting conviction for an Englishman who is perfectly free from any *plethora* of accumulated wealth of his own.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

DEATHS.

At Shanghai, on the 3rd February, JOHN BROADHURST TOOTAL, in his 59th year.

At Shanghai, on the 2nd inst., FREDERICK GEORGE WALSH aged 64 years.

On the 11th inst., at No. 24, the infant son of GAVIN PARKER NESS.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE old after-dinner East Indian toast of 'A lass! and a lac a day' might be parodied by Yokohama correspondence clerks 'Alas! and a mail a day' since the last number of this Review had to be pushed into premature birth to make room for a Mail Summary. The *Oceanic* and *Tanis* left respectively for America and Europe at their appointed time, and a northern and southern coasting steamer have been despatched as usual. Of inward mails, we have to record the arrival of the *Tiber* on the 14th inst., with the Marseilles mail of the 20th December last and the *Saikio Maru*, with the Shanghai mail of the 6th inst., while the *Belgie* is hourly expected from San Francisco, having left her port on the 19th ult. She has already made a long passage for a 'White Star' liner, so she must have met with exceptionally rough weather. The *Sunoh*, with the English mail of January 4th, left Hongkong on the 11th inst. and may therefore be expected here by Thursday next. For the movements of other mail steamers we refer our readers to our shipping tables.

We take this opportunity of explaining to our subscribers the use and meaning of the Table IV. which we have recently added

to our Mail Steamers' Register. The writer of a letter in England or America, to some friend in Yokohama, naturally wants to know when his letter ought to reach Japan, and also when it does. If he has the sagacity to take in the *Japan Times*, he finds out by reference to this table that his letter, sent on such and such a date, will be due here on such another. He waits till the happy day when he receives the next number of this Review, then turns to the Shipping tables on the next page, and ascertains whether or not the vessel which carried his remittance or his love-letter had arrived. If she had, which he will generally find to be the case, he fills in the date in the blank column of 'Arrivals' and then, besides having the opportunity of blessing or cursing the steamer for making a quick or slow passage, has in addition the elevating sensation of becoming a contributor to the paper.

The interruption to telegraphic communication having been repaired, we began to receive news from London again three days ago. And extremely interesting these news are. Fancy being condemned to vegetation in a miserable hole like this, where people have not spirit or enterprise enough to resist a Poll Tax, or support a crossing-sweeper—while such events are passing in Europe! Perhaps this afternoon the heralds stood on the steps of the Royal Exchange and the Declaration of War was proclaimed and 'Britain's one sole God' will no longer

"be the millionaire :

No more shall Commerce be all in all, and Peace
Pipe on her pastoral hillock a languid note,
And watch her harvest ripen, her herd increase,
Nor the cannon bullet rust on a slothful shore,
And the cobweb woven across the cannon's throat
Shall shake its threaded tears in the wind no more."

A vote of confidence in Lord Beaconsfield's ministry, six millions voted for munitions of war, and the Ironclad squadron anchored under the Sultan's windows, with Gortschakoff telegraphing defiance, look very like battle. Russia, as usual, has to score another diplomatic victory, for only by the connivance of the Turks could her troops have occupied the *enceinte* of Constantinople. We, with Austria and other Powers, had virtually guaranteed Constantinople from occupation: but it will be remembered that a chief cause of Abdul Aziz' deposition was his listening to Ignatieff's propositions for 'protection' of Turkey by Russia. The old 'palace party' would appear to have made the *coup* which then failed.

But here we are—drifting into European politics, of which we can necessarily know nothing. *Revenons à nos* Shanghai sheep!

The mystery of William Boorn remains as dark as ever, and the attempt to prevent a recurrence of such an outrage, by lighting the settlement, licensing the grog shops and controlling the 'loafer' population by the establishment of an efficient foreign police, is *dashed* with such cold water that it seems hopeless to persevere in it.

The other crime, a burglary at Homoko, which we referred to at the same time when we last mentioned Boorn, has been detected and punished. A policeman in the Takashima-cho, perceiving a man wearing some female garments under his own masculine habiliments, questioned him, and not receiving a satisfactory explanation, took him to the police station. The officer in charge there, being of course cognizant of the robbery at the Homoko tea-house, sent for the landlady, who immediately recognized the clothes as part of those stolen from her house. The three comrades of the robber were afterwards captured in Ishikawa, but whether or no through information supplied by their companion after *gentle pressure* by the authorities, our informant sayeth not. They were all Yokohama *belongers*, and it is to be hoped that they will not have a chance of indulging in the 'sparkling grape' for some time to come. A few years ago only they would have been dead men ere this. We believe that most of the wearing apparel stolen was recovered; the watches, hair-pins and corals being more easily disposed of, were of course required to fill the flowing bowl and to gladden the eye of beauty. The remark is threefold, but the aptitude displayed by the native police in recovering property stolen from the native, and the inaptitude to detect the perpetrators of offences against the foreigner is remarkable. These men are caught in a fortuitous way, but where is the murderer of William Boorn? Would that the Japanese would take a lesson from the native police in Shanghai, where the recovery of property stolen from the foreigner is oftener the rule than the exception; and that too, with the settlement in close proximity to the city of Shanghai, with its thousands of tortuous circuitous streets and blind alleys, and with its swarms of vagabonds whose only livelihood is to prey on their neighbours.

On Monday last was celebrated, by salutes in the harbour, and a holiday in the public offices, the 258th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Jimmu Tenno, the first Mikado. It is a

curious coincidence, rather, let us say, a happy omen for Japan, that Jimmu Tenno and *Japan Times* have both the same initials. 'There is a river in Macedon, and there is also moreover a river at Mon mouth . . . and there is salmon in both.' We shall fire a salute when we register our 2538th subscriber.

The War Department's accounts of the expenses of the Satsuma rebellion have been made up, and the total, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* tells us, is close on 50,000,000 *yen*. They fight more cheaply in Japan than in Europe. Not that the figure is not large enough, and a heavy burden on the country. It is sad to think of the loss that cannot be replaced, of the brave men who fell on each side. The *Gazette* by the way, has been publishing a translation of a most remarkable document, 'Saigo's dream,' which we recommend our readers to peruse. The hero is supposed to have an interview with Jimmu Tenno, who calls on him for an explanation of his behaviour, which he is proceeding to give, when the Censor of the Press stops him in his unfinished tale. Though we do not think the native press yet fit to be trusted with full liberty, we think the Government makes a mistake in this particular instance of repression. They achieved a splendid and complete victory, and the vanquished have a proverbial right to scold. But is more than probable that the Government knows its own excitable people better than we foreigners can, and rumours of attempts to relight the dead embers of rebellion justify them in being careful.

The strong probability of a return of the cholera epidemic to our misgoverned town has sent the foreign consuls looking about for a site for a new hospital elsewhere than in the middle of the now crowded bluff. We do not hear of their being successful, and can well imagine how difficult must be their task.

It seems by no means unlikely that trouble is impending between Corea and Japan. It is reported that a Corean embassy is to be sent shortly to request the temporary suspension of the clause in the recently-made Treaty which provides for the residence of a Japanese Ambassador in the capital of Corea. The rumour has been semi-officially denied, but it is by no means improbable. The Chinese Ambassador, here, on the other hand, appears to be anxious to cultivate friendly relations with his colleagues. He entertained the Foreign and some of the Japanese ministers at the Shiba palace on the 8th instant. The birds' nest soup was exceptionally good.

We are sorry to have to notice the demise of the little *Kinshin Times*, of Nagasaki. Its articles on Coal would have been extremely useful, as contributions to a paper with a larger and wider circulation. Its editor makes a graceful bow to his audience from an imaginary stage, rings down his curtain and turns off his gas. He has referred twice or thrice to the fact that the *Japan Times* and *Kinshin Times* were twin brothers, having been born on the same day. *Absit omen!*

CORRESPONDENCE.

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PARAPHRASE NO PLAGIARISM.

To the Editor of the *Japan Times*.

Dear Sir,

The *Japan Mail*, in an article entitled "Killing No Murder" in its issue of the 9th of February, expresses its "unfeigned regret that it finds itself compelled by the "prominence lately given to this unfortunate production ("The Kagoshima Affair") to criticise it with some "severity."

When, Sir, it became your duty to undertake the 'defence of the dead,' and your criticism evoked the reply which has disgraced Eastern Journalism, and which would have sullied the page of any journalism, even of the lowest type; then the sympathy of all brave men was on your side. The use of coarse, violent language, now that Law and Society combine to punish and condemn personal chastisement, is an act, morally in the same category with the assault by a hundred of armed guards upon three defenceless men and one tender woman.

What leads the *Mail* to "criticise with some severity" this pamphlet on 'The Kagoshima Affair'? It was obvious to any candid mind, endowed with reasonable intelligence, that with that pamphlet, *except so far as it was quoted in the*

'Tokio Times,' your article had nothing to do. Your criticism was directed against the sentiments of a journal which professes to represent the opinions of a party, and not against a pamphlet which, whether anonymous or not, very few people had read. What has the *Mail* brought, to what it says would be the "no difficult task, after proper preparation, of refuting the able plea for the defence" of a cowardly assassination? In addition to your arguments, it has produced one little idea—that Mr. Richardson was a mild, as well as an honourable man. For the rest, by an elaborate paraphrase of your leader of the 26th ult. it has produced a very readable article. The official records are referred to as the only reliable source of information; the interpolation of 'suppositions,' founded on 'loose rumours,' collected by the American Minister, is denounced; the proper value is placed upon the conduct of the followers of the 'high-souled Satsuma hero,' who, in cold blood, mutilated our dying countryman; a just comment is made upon the dishonesty of a historian who ignores the evidence of the Japanese woman, who witnessed this crowning outrage; an inference is drawn from the fact that as Mr. Richardson was accompanied by a lady, he would be less likely to be guilty of the insolent conduct charged against him. *Voilà tout!*

As the *Mail* has produced a very readable, though not original article, it would not be fair to find fault with it, but for the cool touch of self-sufficiency which occurs at the end thereof. Of course, a writer must pick his facts, if not his ideas, from some fount, and why not from the work of a brother journalist? But the writer in the *Mail* commences with a palpable historical blunder in placing the murder in 1872; * then, as I have shown, paraphrases your argument; throws a compliment on the literary ability of the author of the "Chapter of Japanese History" as a sop to Cerberus; characterizes the language of the *Tokio Times* as a "tone of reply which we feel bound to condemn" (a pleasing rebuke against the use of such language!); states his opinion that "the British case was not in strong hands"; and concludes with this startling peroration:—

"The murders of foreigners in Japan admit of no palliation. But they were the fruits of a ferocity artificial rather than natural, and we are confident that very few Japanese at the present day share the sanguinary views of the 'Satsuma officer' mentioned in the pamphlet with apparent approval. The moral responsibility of assassins is not, therefore, to be measured by the atrocity of their deeds, and involves questions requiring much more careful consideration than we are for the moment prepared to give them."

I cannot therefore help asking which of the minor sins has tempted the writer? Or, is he sarcastically giving a few easy lectures on the art of Journalism made Easy? Perhaps, as he thinks that your Review is not read by the same, or so extensive a class of readers as the *Mail*, he was anxious that your arguments should be brought before a wider circle; but, then, there is a way of doing this, without infringing the etiquette which is universally received among Editors who know their business. I am not myself much acquainted with the mysteries of the *sanctum* of the editorial room; but I have heard, and I believe, that to abstain from constant bickerings between themselves is for the true welfare of the journals they conduct, if they respect the dignity of the craft above the occasional applause of a thoughtless public; and I think it would have shown better taste in the *Mail*, under all the circumstances, to have let the matter rest; or, if it were not satisfied with the strength of the "British case" as you had left it, to have waited till it had time and opportunity to give a 'more careful consideration' to the subject.

The subject itself is not a pleasant one; it is deeply distressing to those who knew and esteemed the victims: the "Affair" was almost forgotten, it has now been raked up again by a self-constituted advocate and adviser of Young Japan. *Cui bono?* Certainly not of his constituents; for the "Affair" whether assassination, murder, or revenge, reflects nothing but opprobrium on the perpetrators: certainly not of the writer in the *Tokio Times*, for his reply to criticism has shocked even his friends. Certainly not of the readers of the *Mail*, for its article, were it original, would leave the public in the dark, as to

whether it supported the conduct of the agents, and the language of their advocate; or whether it intended merely to find a bad award, in a cause in which it ought to have thrown its weight and used its influence on the side of fellow countrymen.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ARBITER.

Yokohama, February 14th, 1878.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Qr. 3. Can any of your readers give me information respecting the comparative value of money in Japan five centuries ago, and at present?

Were the actual incomes of the Nobles larger or smaller than as represented by their official rent-rolls, and have they now, as a matter of fact, more money to spend on themselves, than they had in old times? N. or M.

NOTE. Perhaps "N. or M." may be able from the following data to answer the first part of his own question. Only one of the items here given goes back as far as five hundred years. They are taken from a manuscript compiled a year or two since at the Okurashô, and are I think worthy of reliance:—

- 1.—One hundred Kobans (i.e. riyôs) of the Keichô period (1596-1615) contain
Gold 401.226 Momme.
Silver 44.774 "
- 2.—One hundred Kobans of the Kenji period (1275-1278) contain
Gold 210.73 Momme.
Silver 39.27 "
- 3.—One hundred Kobans of the Genroku period (1688-1674) contain
Gold 273.063 Momme.
Silver 202.937 "
- 4.—One Oban (10 riyôs) of the Keicho period (1596-1615) contains
Gold 30.0377
Silver 12.4629
Copper 1.6

Taking for granted that the qualities of the metals employed now and at those periods are the same, it would not be difficult to calculate the difference in values. But I am afraid that any theory based in such a calculation would be delusive. Judging from the *Kingindzusetsu* (a book which, by the way, will be found of the greatest use to any one interested in Japanese Numismatics) it appears that there has never been a standard of coinage in Japan. Coins struck in the same reign will be found differing in size, and in the weights and qualities of the metals employed. There does not seem to have been any Mint; coins were made by independent individuals who obtained leave to do so.

With reference to the second part of "N. or M.'s" question, I believe it will be found that the Official Lists of the Daimiô's revenues were the assessed values of the total production of the provinces, and were very far from being correct. Thus we read that the Lord of Kaga had a revenue of 1,200,000 Koku, which means that the officials who assessed the taxes, which he was to pay, calculated that his province *ought to produce* 1,200,000 Roku; and this it never did. The Daimiô received a certain portion, varying according to the tenure (generally a fourth or a third, called *yotsu* or *mitsu mononari*) of what was really produced.

Seeing this, one can easily imagine that under the new régime (at least before the reduction) the Daimiôs have had much more money for their own use; and I am informed by a Japanese gentleman, who has good means of knowing, that this is really the case; but he says that some have squandered away their pensions, and are not in an opulent condition just now. X.

Qr. 4. To what amount of restraint was a Noble subjected by the supervision of the 'karo.' Could he, for example, go out alone, or with only a favourite attendant? N. or M.

NOTE. I do not think a Daimiô was subject to any restraint from his *Karô*, other than that which strong and experienced minds would exercise over weak and ignorant

* Obviously a misprint. Ed. J. T.

ones. In theory at least the Karô were as absolutely subject to their Daimiô's will as the other vassals; but very frequently, in practice, the Daimiô was a *roi fainéant*, while the Karô was a *mare du palais* who possessed the real power, of which his master had only the shadow. This state of things is common at some time or other in almost every country in the world, but especially amongst Oriental nations.

The incident of Kaga Sôdô shows a Karô unable to restrain, however much he lamented, the conduct of his lord.

These remarks have no reference to the *Han* system.

X.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter VII. THE PRIME MINISTER.

ONE spring evening in the year 1575, when the merry sun sketched upon slope and parterre grotesque portraits of tall roofs and gracefully curved gables; or, thrusting his rosy arms under granite and argillite bridges, aroused from their afternoon siesta burly carps and gold fish, a man sat reading in the "Palace of Pleasure" at Kiyoto. He was in the prime of life, fairly fashioned and of noble mien, but busy people did not love to look long in his face, for though his features were handsome and eminently aristocratic, they were marred by a veil of listlessness and *ennui*, so thick that its shadow touched everything around him. This was Hidetsugu, Prime Minister of Japan.

Nephew and adopted son of Taiko, regent and generalissimo of the whole empire within the four seas, he had with little pains reached the splendid position he now filled, and which was still but the earnest of fuller dignity in the future, for he was heir presumptive to all the titles and offices of his father Taiko.

Looking at the room where he was seated—the ceiling of pictured cedar—the alcove with its pillars of marvelously fantastic ivy stems and shelves of ebony—the walls covered with flowered brocade, and the floor mats with figured damask—the window frames of frosted iron, with alternate ribs of gold and silver—the veranda, with its ample slabs of strangely grained woods, touching columns of lustrous lacquer, and overhung by a long row of bronze lamps each inwrought with some mystic history—the vases of priceless porcelain, resting on stands of jade and enamel from the palace of the Corean Emperor, and supporting many-armed branches of red and white coral—or glancing across the silk tasselled blinds, here at vistas of velvet turf and level lakes, mirroring long tressed wisteria, or drooping cherries; there at forests of richly foliaged trees and shrubs, shading bronze figures of fabulous monsters, and huge rocks water-carved into weird creations of a century's patient effort:—looking at all these things and then at the man who, sitting among them, took so little note of them, one could easily divine that some cloud had crept between him and contentment.

Less than two years before, the Regent's concubine, Yodo, had borne him a boy in his old age. Taiko's long career of sagacious bravery in the field and impartial probity in the cabinet, afforded no precedent to justify his adopted son's disquiet at this event. It was little likely that the Regent, who, having discovered his mother's portrait in Hidetsugu's face, had deliberately chosen the boy as his successor, and gradually raised him to the highest post in the empire after his own, would now thrust him aside, and permit the world to say that a caprice of consanguinity had perverted a great man's judgment. Nor did Hidetsugu at first anticipate any such result. On the contrary, eager to witness and share the Regent's gladness, he had himself carried the news of Hideyori's birth to Nagoya, where Taiko was at that time detained by the Corean war, and the relations between the uncle and nephew were never more intimate, than when Hidetsugu left Nagoya after the performance of this graceful action.

But an unhappy accident occurred shortly afterwards. On the evening of his return to Fushimi, the Lady Yodo presented his infant son to the Regent. There were present, at the time, the Prime Minister and Ishida Mitsunari, one of the five Councillors. Taiko, taking the child in his arms, had remained for a moment silently gazing at its tiny features, when Ishida, speaking as though he interpreted the Regent's musings, said:—

"Clever a child as the young prince surely is, he can scarcely yet dream of the future that awaits the ruler of all the empire within the four seas."

At these words the Lady Yodo started visibly; a look of happy pride brightened her face, but almost immediately changed to one of vexation as her glance, wandering from the Regent, fell significantly on the figure of his nephew and adopted son.

Not a shade of the mother's unspoken feeling escaped Hidetsugu, and he returned that evening to Kiyoto an altered man. A shadow had fallen upon his life. Dare he hope that his uncle's self-imposed obligations would survive the constant recital of a mother's hopes, seconded by the promptings of paternal affection? He asked himself what he would do were he in the Regent's place, and found little reassurance in the answer. Had fate never shown him so fair a prospect, he had not known this bitterness of disappointment; and angry with the world, angry with his own too sanguine confidence, the hitherto zealous Minister became a brooding idler, haunted by a constant sense of loneliness and helplessness apprehension. But he was too young, and physically too gifted, to suffer long passively. Life had other things to offer besides rule and fame, and soon, in the society of women, he sought to replace the love his cousin's baby hands had stolen from him. The result is easily conceived. One of the handsomest men of his time and possessing almost unlimited power, inclination pandered to his fancies no less than interest, so that, before two years were past, his household numbered forty girls chosen indiscriminately from all ranks and classes, the only conditions of election being beauty and accomplishments.

For a time, soft caresses and sunny smiles, made the present too precious to be disturbed by forebodings, but in the end Hidetsugu began to remember that every night's debauch brought him nearer the things he feared. He had now to dread not Taiko's caprice, which was unlikely, but his justice, which was certain, and finding the solace he had sought insufficient, he was overtaken by the lassitude of men who, with their self esteem, have lost the power to be ambitious.

Sitting thus in the midst of such unheeded splendour, all hopes of happier issues seemed to be fading from his heart like the twilight from the pages of his book, when the door opening, disclosed a little page kneeling on the threshold and holding a salver with a card on it. Another page, who had been sitting perfectly motionless within, received the salver and carrying it to the Minister's side, presented it, kneeling. Hidetsugu did not touch the card, but raising his eyes read the superscription, "Ishida Mitsunari, Councillor," and then made an almost imperceptible sign, which however the well-trained page apparently comprehended, for, bowing low, he retired to his former position, and in the same voiceless fashion conveyed some directions to those without. Presently the door again opened, this time displaying five kneeling figures, on the right and left two pages, and in the centre a man of about the same age as the Minister, but in other respects altogether different, for his eye, bright with hope and expedient, seemed fixed upon things beyond the reach of catastrophe, and his motions were as the overflow of an exhaustless spring of vigor.

"Come in, Ishida," said the Minister, "it is some time since we have had the pleasure of seeing you here."

"Yes, your Excellency," replied the Councillor, "I have been daily promising myself the honour of waiting on you, but business has held me fast at Fushimi. I must apologize for calling so late this evening."

"Not at all," answered Hidetsugu, "on the contrary, your visit is most opportune. The *ennui* of these spring evenings is insupportable."

"Your Excellency's *ennui* is most probably the result of too severe attention to your public duties," said the Councillor, looking curiously at Hidetsugu's hands which,

hanging listlessly over his reading stand, were toying with the tassel of an elbow rest.

A slight tinge of colour visited the Minister's cheek at this remark of which, for the rest, he took no notice, and a moment of somewhat awkward silence ensued, broken at last by the visitor, who said:—

"I have taken the liberty of bringing a runlet of wine, which I hope your Excellency will do me the honour of tasting. It has come to me with some strong recommendations of quality."

"I shall be very glad to do so, provided you keep me company," replied the Minister:—for the first time displaying a slight evidence of interest. Then, turning to the page who sat at the door, he said:—"Let the runlet be taken from the Councillor's people and carried to the banquet hall. We shall go there presently to taste it."

Ishida, bowing low, displayed an almost excessive satisfaction at the delivery of this order, but the Minister, relapsing again into his old apathy, took no notice of his visitor's demeanour. "Is there anything strange at the Regent's court?" he asked, after the page had left the room.

"No," replied the Councillor, "since Sir Yukinaga brought news the month before last that peace with Corea was at length arranged, people discuss nothing but the probable result of the ambassador's visit."

"Indeed," said the Minister, "castle planning and treaty framing must keep the Regent pretty busy. But what do your speculative folk find to anticipate in the terms of a peace already digested?"

"Nothing in the terms, but your Excellency has no doubt heard of the form of the preamble."

"No," replied Hidetsugu "I should think the preamble was not a matter of much moment."

"Your Excellency does not then know that, according to Yukinaga's report, the Chinese intend to address the Regent as king of Min."

"Which no doubt will be very satisfactory to Taiko, seeing that he has always proposed to reach Min by stepping on Corea," observed the minister.

"Yes, your Excellency, but the Regent may insist on more than the title."

"And what then?" asked Hidetsugu carelessly.

"He might then find it necessary to cross the sea and lead the troops himself," said Ishida, looking keenly at his host.

"If he did, I presume the government could be safely carried on his absence, for there would be few left here to rebel," answered Hidetsugu, interpreting the Councillor's look. "But the night is growing chilly, and your wine awaits us."

Saying this, he rose, and led the way to the banquet hall. There the Councillor found large store of delicacies served in vessels and cups of the finest porcelain. The ewers were of pure gold, as also were the flagons, and massive candlesticks of silver stood all round the circle of the feast. At one side of the room, mounted on lacquered trestles, the Councillor's portly runlet reposed, its' plaited covering of snow white rice-straw as yet unviolated. But Ishida scarcely observed these things. His whole attention was riveted on the attendants, twenty beautiful girls, who, kneeling here and there beside the apparatus of the banquet, displayed a marvellous fertility of graceful device in their essays to prove their presence essential. The Councillor scanned their fair faces one by one, rather with an air of enquiry than admiration; and as his eyes fell upon the last, a slender girl of fifteen or sixteen, who sat timidly beyond the glare of the candles, a look of disappointment crossed his features. But at that moment two little children dressed in red, with girdles of white and gold, and clusters of cherry blossoms in their hair, advancing to the Minister's side, the one presented him with a cup which the other filled with wine. Hidetsugu, emptying the cup, dipped it into an ewer, and returned it to the child, who receiving it on her open hands, carried it to the Councillor.

After this, the banquet began. Hidetsugu, each time he drank, passed the cup to some one of his attendants, and received it from her again, so that presently the cheering beverage brought back the colour to his face and the light to his eyes, and when, after a time, five blind musicians were led in, and a group of winsome girls began to mark the measure of harp and haut-boy with woven paces

and airy gestures, the Minister forgot his dejection and applauded delightedly.

Ishida, who seemed to have been awaiting this moment, now addressed his host:—

"By your Excellency's kindness," he said, "I have seen a picture of beauty and skill such as, until this evening, I had pronounced unequalled."

This somewhat equivocal speech excited many glances of astonishment, and for a moment the wine cup paused in its passage.

"Has the Councillor then been already inspecting the resources of Kiyoto?" asked Hidetsugu disdainfully.

"Not so, your Excellency. The treasury of accomplishments is to be found at the Palace of Pleasure only, but "heaven is hearsay" as the proverb has it, and from what men say, the "dance of the goddess" has been eclipsed at the Prime Minister's court. If this were not so, I might now say I had seen perfection."

Ha! Ha! laughed Hidetsugu. "I see you have not forgotten the art of eloquence in the marshes of Chosen. But you shall judge for yourself," and thereupon he gave some directions to one of the little cup-bearers, who quitting the room, returned in a few minutes, accompanied by Ochika, at that time the minister's first favourite.

Chika was one of those rare beauties on whom gazing only begets the wish to gaze, like some fair prospect whose whole perfection the eye can never exhaust. One of the many odes her charms inspired says, that "no man could quit her presence without a trouble at his heart." As she entered the room, moving with a grace that seemed to interpret the cadence of some secret harmony, the quick blood flashed for an instant into Ishida's face, and then left it pale as death. An equal trouble visited the girl's features, but her long reverence to the Minister and his guest sufficed to conceal her emotion, and not once afterwards during the whole evening did she permit herself to look towards the Councillor. Not so, however, with Ishida. Whether Ochika danced, as she presently did with such a finished excellence, that the music seemed to follow rather than direct her movements, or whether her white fingers glancing among the harp strings, awoke melodies that her voice made doubly melodious, his eyes never ceased to seek her, till, at the conclusion of her song, Hidetsugu, beckoning her to his side, placed the wine cup in her hand, and filled it himself as a mark of special favour. Then the Councillor's rapturous gaze, turning from the girl's face to her master's, changed to a glance of mortal hatred.

Shortly afterwards, he begged leave to retire, and took his way back to Fushimi. Riding along though the shadowy lustre of the moonlight and the fragrant breaths of the damine and plum blossoms, memory carried him back to the time when ambition had not yet matured into action, nor success showed itself barren without sympathy. He remembered how, when men first told him the story of Chika's loveliness, strange longings and forebodings had stirred his heart; how one glimpse of her face had changed his careless dreams of escape from poverty and obscurity, into a fevered craving for opulence and rank, on which to found a claim to her hand; how the undeviating singleness of his purpose had conquered fate and bridged the chasm that separated him from eminence, and how, when almost within reach of his hopes, the whole fabric of his fortune had crumbled into worthless dust at the news of Chika's union with the Baron of Kwannonzan. Then had come an interval of aimlessness and inaction, out of which he had suddenly started with fresh resolves to master his ill-fate, whatever weapon the contest demanded. Elected Councillor, and raised to the rank of the nobility with a rental of two hundred and forty thousand measures of rice, but, above all, powerful as the favorite of the Regent, and the accepted lover of the Regent's mistress Yodo, a few subtle schemes had easily achieved the ruin of the Baron of Kwannonzan, only however again to prove his labour fruitless, for Chika had passed into the hands of Hidetsugu, the Baron's friend and patron. He might then have been content to abandon an apparently impossible pursuit, nay even might have succeeded in mastering his passion, had he found in his life any happier sentiment than the belief that she once loved him. But it was not so. The eminence he had reached seemed to him a barren mountain peak, unceasingly visited by bitter blasts of loneliness and remorse, a height far indeed above the heads

of his fellows, but farther still from the pleasant valleys of affection and content. He felt that his achievements were not yet the full measure of his capability, and with this conviction shaped a resolution, destined to bear large store of poisonous fruit. He determined to see Chika once more, and if he found her indifferent, to abandon all thoughts of recovering her; but if, on the other hand, he saw that his aspect still awakened some emotion in her heart, then casting aside distinctions of evil and good, faith and perfidy, he would suffer death to be the only interruption of his purpose. His visit to the Palace of Pleasure was the first-fruit of this determination, and he carried away not only the assurance that Chika had not forgotten him, but also a new sentiment, a consuming hatred for Hidetsugu, whose disgrace and ruin became thenceforth the single aim of his life.

The next morning he waited on the Lady Yodo, whom he found as usual nursing her little son. Ishida seldom allowed a day to pass without enquiring for the child, and generally, fondling it or playing with it, made it the ostensible object of his visits. On this occasion, however, he did not take the slightest notice of it, so that Yodo, piqued by his evident neglect, asked him at last whether he had forgotten the boy.

"No, Madame," he replied, "though sometimes I almost wish I could do so."

Yodo looked at the Councillor in astonishment, but, finding that he offered no explanation of his strange answer, said:—

"What can you possibly mean by that, Sir Ishida?"

"Madame," he answered, "your son's future is so dark, that its shadow is cast upon me, who love him and would fain give my life to avert the sorrows that await him."

"The sorrows that await my son!" repeated Yodo with a blanched face;—"pray explain yourself, Sir Ishida. The mystery of your words causes me more concern than their import."

"The Councillor shook his head sadly. "I had not thought to tell you my fears, Madame," he said, "but I feel that to conceal them longer were a fault. And yet I cannot believe that the Regent's age and the Prime Minister's excesses have not already caused you some uneasiness."

"I have often indeed wished," replied Yodo, "that Taiko might live to direct Hideyori's childhood; but the Regent has already arranged to give the castle of Fushimi to Hidetsugu and that of Ozaka to my son, and no doubt he will take care to remove all future difficulties before he dies. As for Hidetsugu's excesses, I know nothing of them. Why do you speak of them in conjunction with the Regent's age? I confess I cannot understand you."

"You do not then know, Madame, that the Minister's life of lust and debauch is a subject of marvel to all Kiyoto; that he compels every woman he fancies to enter his harem, careless whether she be already betrothed or even married, and without any regard to her social position, and that he passes his nights in revel and his days in idleness?"

"No," said Yodo amazed, "I know nothing of all that. But surely if it were so, the Regent would deprive him of his office?"

"The Regent, Madame, is equally ignorant; which proves that even Taiko may sometimes be mistaken in his judgment," said the Councillor significantly.

"Well, but," persisted Yodo, "I cannot see in all this any cause for uneasiness on my son's account."

Ishida remained silent for a few moments, and then speaking with evident reluctance, said:—

"Lady Yodo, when I compare the distress my words may cause you with the misfortunes your action may avert, I am surprised at my own silence. If the Minister puts so little restraint on himself during the Regent's life time, what will his conduct be when he irresponsible? Even were he a just and upright man, is it likely that he would prefer your son's claims to those of his own children, and being what he is, can we expect anything but persecution, misery, and perhaps a violent death for this poor boy, instead of the rank and power to which his birth entitles him?"

Before Ishida had ceased speaking, Yodo's tears were falling fast upon her baby's face. Straining the child

passionately to her bosom, she looked up at the Councillor and said almost angrily:—

"How can you quietly prophesy all this to me, without suggesting a remedy? From you at least I could scarcely have expected this."

"The remedy lies in great part with yourself, Madame," answered Ishida quietly but firmly. "It is necessary that the Regent should be convinced of these things, and you should be his first informant."

"I scarcely recognize your wonted sagacity in that advice, Sir Ishida," said Yodo, after a moment's consideration. "Taiko is too impartial to credit charges laid by Hideyori's mother against one who stands between her son and fortune."

"On the contrary, Madame, it is just because the Regent is himself impartial, that he will give you too the credit of impartiality. But surely the urgency of the affair ought to preclude such disingenuous reluctance! It is not a question of impressions, but of civil strife and the people's welfare. If the death of the Regent leaves Hidetsugu Prime Minister, and Hideyori his ward, all Taiko's loyal servants will have miserably failed in their duty, and most certainly the hardly achieved unity of the empire will be again resolved into elements of riot and ruin. Do not fear to find your action unsupported, Madame. Neither I, nor those to whom the country's interests are dear will fail to corroborate your words, but it is necessary that you should speak first, for, as you know, Kimura and Maino are officially attached to the Prime Minister in the capacity of monitors, and so long as no report comes from them, it is impossible for us to move. Yet should it happen that your son's future and the welfare of the State have less weight with you than a chimerical imputation of partiality, I at least will not shrink from my fealty, whatever the cost may be, and however remote the likelihood of success without your aid."

Dictated by a feeling that had absorbed all his energies and aspirations, the Councillor's words were earnest and impressive, while on her side, Yodo's alarm began to be replaced by delight at the anticipation of removing the only obstacle to her son's precedence.

"I will follow your counsels, Sir Ishida," she said, "but I hope I may count on your aid; for Taiko will not be easily persuaded to depose his nephew."

"Madame," replied the Councillor, "I have but one promise and that is pledged to you. Were I to remain idle, while there is a possibility of Hidetsugu's succeeding to the government, I should be a traitor."

With these words, Ishida, satisfied that his object was attained, took his leave.

Oh, most terrible of terrible weapons, the human tongue! Swords have been forged to which armour was as pith, and glaives tempered to which hauberks were as straw, but of all things forged or tempered, the keenest is that which severs the ties of blood and divides the joints of friendship!

A few days afterwards, Taiko called his Council together to discuss some details connected with the visit of the Min' ambassadors. The business of the meeting having been concluded, the five officers sat expecting a signal of dismissal, but finding that the Regent remained silent, began to look enquiringly at one another. Ishida alone did not raise his eyes, for he felt instinctively that he was about to witness the first result of his own schemes.

"Since my return from Nagoya," said Taiko, avoiding accuracy even as to the date of his information, "I have heard some rather discreditable rumours about Hidetsugu's manner of living. Has any thing of the sort come to your ears?"

Now from the time of Ishida's visit to Hidetsugu at the Palace of Pleasure, the Minister's excesses had formed a topic of ever widening comment at the Regent's court. Hence, though Taiko's enquiry elicited no reply, it was easy to see that the silence of the five Councillors arose from reluctance rather than inability to answer.

"My Lords," resumed Taiko presently, "from the moment I determine to consult you, reserve is not compatible with your duty. Is it necessary that I should repeat my question?"

But Ishida, who knew that the Regent generally attributed inaction to incapacity, deemed it wise not remain any longer silent.

"The rumours you mention have reached us too, Your Highness;"—he said, but we held it expedient to trace them, as far as might be, towards their source, before reporting them to you. We have only however attained the certainty that half Kiyoto is busied in discussing the Prime Minister's reputed excesses. Men say that his harem includes women of the lowest classes, and that in some cases the obligations not only of betrothal but even of marriage have been violated. But we do not find it possible to credit things so disreputable. The Prime Minister has monitors of known probity. In their silence, I for my part, find the best refutation of these evil reports."

So spoke Ishida. With all the air of one who extenuates, he had, in a breath, magnified, insinuated and condemned. He was followed by his friend and confidant, Nagamori, with words no less subtle.

"As Ishida reports," he said, "we have sought to find these things false, but without success. Now that they have reached the Regent's ears however, we hope that the Prime Minister's monitors will have an opportunity of re-establishing His Excellency's character. If but a small part of what fame says were left uncontradicted, it would be a stain upon Your Highness' administration."

Of the other three Councillors not one appeared disposed to speak, though all could see that Taiko would gladly have welcomed any vindication of his nephew's conduct.

"I gather, my Lords," said the Regent, "that you attach more importance to this than I had done myself. Let Sir Yukinaga therefore be despatched at once to Kiyoto with authority to seek an explanation from Hidetsugu himself, and let the vice-comptroller Kumagaye visit the Minister's monitors for a similar purpose. I will consult with you again when I know the result of these steps."

With these words, Taiko dismissed the Councillors, who proceeded to carry out the directions they had received. Ishida however, excusing himself to his colleagues, returned immediately to his own house, and taking a choice sword forged by Nagamitsu, and a parcel of gold pieces, sent them to his friend Seta Kamon. Apparently the receipt of this present was a preconcerted signal, for within an hour Kamon set out for Kiyoto.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE KWAZOKU AND SHIZOKU.

(From the *Choya Shimbun*.)

THAT the especial protection given to the *kwazoku* and *shizoku* would result to their hurt, rather than to their benefit, we have already often argued. The Government should regard all the four classes, (officers, farmers, artisans and merchants) as equal, and there should be no difference in rank between them. And what is the cause of the Government's special support of the *kwazoku* and *shizoku*? It may be that the former, being aforesaid either '*kuge*' (H. I. M. Court attendants,) or *shiki* (nobles) were then possessed of certain dominions or pensions, but are now unable to retain them,—the latter being relieved from military service, and the former's pensions being turned into bonds. (Indeed there are not a few who have no means of livelihood for the future.) Can this be right? There are, besides the *kwazoku* and *shizoku*, others deprived of their means of livelihood by lapse of time and change of things—such as the members of trade-guilds, which, being suppressed, all the commission merchants are almost ruined. Also certain castle towns having fallen into decay, the trades-people in these towns have no hope of future prosperity.

Such people ought also to be equally supported by Government, if its obligations towards the four classes of people are to be similar.

It is said that "the cause of the Government's partiality towards the *kwazoku* is because there are a number of *kwazoku* in the cabinet, and that its partiality to the *shizoku* is because the Government officers are nearly all *shizoku*." We cannot agree with this argument. But it is further said that the Prime Minister and Chief of the Kunaisho (Imperial Household) being *kwazoku*, their relatives and friends are also of the same rank, and consequently their feeling towards them must be different from that which they entertain towards the other classes. And as among

their own class, there are many who are unfit for or unacquainted with public affairs, or ignorant and without knowledge of Economy &c. and as they conjecture that respect for the *kwazoku* might finally be lost, and their means of living also and so disgrace fall on their names; thus affecting the reputation and power of the monarchy—so the Prime Minister and Chief of the Household, by giving them special advantages, have encouraged them to establish the Club, the School, the Bank, &c. in order to put them into the right direction as to their future means of livelihood, and to enable them to retain their wealth and position. And that this is the cause of the *kwazoku*'s favouritism for people of their own class.

So, they say, with the *shizoku* also. About seven or eight tenths of the officers in the Central or Provincial Governments are *shizoku*; and though these are individually provided with means of livelihood by the salaries they receive;—yet these, knowing the condition of their relatives, friends and neighbours in their native places, who have commuted their pensions, but have since lost all the money they received, on account of the unfavourable state of business; some who, retaining the bonds, are getting uneasy as to their future prospects, and turn to servants or cart-drivers and suffer generally from want of sufficient means of livelihood—those in office consider that the *shizoku* formerly, in the old time, were fighting men only and lived without labour, and also that the Government having deprived them of their pensions and released them from their service, should now protect and afford them means of livelihood. Moved by these considerations, they distribute the Government mountainous or uncultivated lands to improve among *shizoku*. And this because the *shizoku* in office compassionate the men of the class to which they belong.

It is further argued:—"should the special protection given by Government to *kwazoku* and *shizoku* arise from these causes,—as the responsibility of the Government is to maintain and advance the happiness of the people in the whole country, with what show of reason can they make such a difference between the various classes."

According to a popular saying:—"if a Prime Minister had been a weaver, he would protect the manufacture of cottons before anything: if he been an actor, then he would do his best to promote the prosperity of the theatres." We cannot but call this a selfish and partial system. But in the West there is a saying that "laws for the intercourse between men and women having been made by men, they were made for men's convenience."

We conclude by giving as our opinion that the present Government, which consists of *kwazoku* and *shizoku*, should carefully direct its efforts towards caring for the whole public, and not let fault-finding people say that, being composed of officers, it favours too much the people of their class.

EXTRACTS.

ARE WE CONSUMING OUR CAPITAL?

(From the 'Economist'.)

The best plan to enable our readers to see the facts clearly, will be to commence by placing the actual official figures of the Imports and Exports for the last ten years before them:—

AN ACCOUNT showing the VALUE of the IMPORTS into and the EXPORTS from the UNITED KINGDOM, in each Year from 1867 to 1876 inclusive.

Years.	VALUE.			
	Imports (not including Bullion).	Produce and Manufactures of the United Kingdom.	Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.	Total Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1867	275,181,137	180,961,923	44,840,606	225,802,529
1868	294,693,608	179,677,812	48,100,642	227,778,454
1869	295,460,214	189,933,957	47,061,095	237,015,052
1870	302,257,493	199,588,222	44,493,755	244,080,577
1871	331,015,180	223,666,162	60,508,538	283,574,701
1872	351,636,691	257,257,347	58,931,487	311,588,834
1873	371,287,374	255,161,663	55,840,167	311,004,576
1874	370,082,701	249,568,121	58,992,343	297,650,464
1875	374,299,557	223,495,663	58,143,660	281,612,323
1876	375,154,703	200,639,204	56,137,398	256,776,602

If we deduct the value of the Exports from the Imports in each year during the period under consideration, we arrive at the following results:—

EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS, as Shown by the Official Returns.

1867	... ..	£ 49 millions.
1868	... ..	67 "
1869	... ..	58 "
1870	... ..	59 "
1871	... ..	47 "
1872	... ..	40 "
1873	... ..	60 "
1874	... ..	72 "
1875	... ..	92 "
1876	... ..	118 "
1877 (estimated)	... ..	142 "

This table is of value as showing us the date at which the excess of our Imports over Exports became marked in what we may call an excessive degree. We may place this date about the year 1875. Two more tables will be necessary, in order to separate the figures with the exactness needed to enable us to comprehend their exact bearing and the progressive increase or decrease in the volume of business transacted. These tables give the increase or decrease in the amounts of the Imports and Exports over those of the year immediately preceding during each of the last ten years:—

INCREASE OR DECREASE OF TOTAL IMPORTS in Year Stated Over the Year immediately Preceding.

		Imports.
Increase over year preceding in 1868	... ..	£19,510,000
" " " " " 1869	... ..	767,000
" " " " " 1870	... ..	7,797,000
" " " " " 1871	... ..	27,758,000
" " " " " 1872	... ..	23,678,000
" " " " " 1873	... ..	16,594,000
" " " " " 1874	... ..	1,205,000
Decrease " " " " 1875	... ..	3,857,000
Increase " " " " 1876	... ..	1,215,000
" " " " " 1877 (estimated)	... ..	19,000,000

INCREASE OR DECREASE OF TOTAL EXPORTS in Year Stated Over the Year immediately Preceding.

		Exports.
Increase over year preceding in 1868	... ..	£ 1,976,000
" " " " " 1869	... ..	9,237,000
" " " " " 1870	... ..	7,065,000
" " " " " 1871	... ..	39,494,000
" " " " " 1872	... ..	31,014,000
Decrease " " " " 1873	... ..	3,584,000
" " " " " 1874	... ..	13,354,000
" " " " " 1875	... ..	16,038,000
" " " " " 1876	... ..	24,836,000
" " " " " 1877 (estimated)	... ..	2,000,000

As both these tables agree in placing the first decided growth both in Imports and Exports in the years 1871 and 1872, we shall do best to make a further supplementary calculation, and taking the average of the first four years in the statement before us—the years 1867 to 1870 inclusive—as a basis to examine into the excess of the Imports and Exports in each year, commencing with the year 1871, over what we may call the normal amount, that is to say, the normal amount estimated in this manner.

The average sum of the Imports for the four years in question (1867-1870) is 292,000,000l., and the excess over that average was in the year:—

EXCESS OF IMPORTS OF Year named over Average of Years, 1867-70.

1871	... ..	£ 39 millions.
1872	... ..	62 "
1873	... ..	79 "
1874	... ..	78 "
1875	... ..	82 "
1876	... ..	83 "
1877 (say)	... ..	102 "

The present year thus seems likely to show a much larger excess than any of its predecessors over what may, for the purpose of this enquiry, be taken as a normal amount of imports.

The average amount of the Exports for the four years in question (1867-70) is 234,000,000l., and the excess over that average was in the year:—

EXCESS OF EXPORTS OF Year named over Average of Years, 1867-70.

1871	... ..	£49 millions.
1872	... ..	80 "
1873	... ..	77 "
1874	... ..	63 "
1875	... ..	47 "
1876	... ..	22 "
1877 (say)	... ..	20 "

The amount for the present year thus shows a slight diminution, as compared with that of the preceding year. Still, the great increase in the value of our Exports commencing seven years ago has not yet been altogether lost.

It must not be forgotten, before proceeding further with this enquiry, that the depression of trade in this country has caused a diminution in the value of the goods exported, which has thus assisted in turning the balance against us.

These figures show very clearly that while the impetus given to our Export trade in the year 1871 had already diminished by the year 1875, and had grown till less by the year 1876, the impetus given at the same date to our Imports is still maintained, and indeed continues distinctly to increase in power.

The evidence of the previous tables unites in marking the years 1871 and 1872 as those in which the great enlargement of our trade, taking both Imports and Exports into consideration, first began to operate.

While the information obtained from an examination of the quantities and values of our Imports and Exports, as stated in the Returns of the Board of Trade, is of the greatest service to us, as affording trustworthy data on which to base an estimate of that description which we desire to form, some other points also must be taken into consideration in order to arrive at the real facts of the case. Thus, the Imports are valued at their destination, the Exports at their port of shipment. The Imports are valued at their cost when landed on our shores, that is to say, their nominal value includes the freight upon them. The Exports, on the other hand, are valued at their cost when they leave England, that is to say, without the freight which will have to be paid for them. The Exports also are valued at the price which the manufacturer puts upon his goods, not at the value of the goods which the shipper hopes to receive in exchange for them in return. Thus the Import side of the account is weighted both with freight and more or less of the importer's profit. The Export side is stated without either one or the other. Beyond this, as Mr. Stephen Bourne* mentions, in the very careful paper on "The Growing Preponderance of Imports over Exports in the Foreign and Colonial Trade of the United Kingdom" to which Mr. Rathbone alludes in his letter, there are other circumstances which must be included, if the calculation is to be a correct one. Thus there are the freights earned by British ships trading between foreign ports. These have to be remitted to our shores, either in the form of goods or of bullion. There is the profit on the trading in the goods which form the imports and exports themselves. There are the ships built in this country and sold to foreigners to be taken into consideration. A large vessel or a large steamer is a very costly affair, and represents a considerable amount of British material and the value of a great expenditure of British labour sent abroad, which do not figure in the list of our exports at all. Besides these things, there is the interest for our capital invested abroad. There is not only the interest on the money invested more or less well in the public securities of foreign countries, but there is also interest on the many industrial concerns which have been established and maintained by British capital. And there are the returns from investments in our own Colonies. The amounts due in this manner from India to England, and from America to England have been estimated by competent authorities as something like £30,000,000 annually, which may be taken as instances of this class of remittance. All these sums form in the aggregate an immense amount, which has annually to be sent to England in some form or other. And in making up the amount of the balance of the bullion received or exported, the difference in amount between the bullion sent to England and that which is sent away from England must also be taken into consideration. We give the following figures, which show that though the tide has turned against us in the course of this year, yet that the balance, on the average of the last 11 years, is largely in our favour.—GOLD and SILVER BULLION and SPECIE IMPORTED and EXPORTED,

Years 1867 to 1876.

		Imports.	Exports.
1867	... ..	£23,821,000	£14,325,000
1868	... ..	24,852,000	20,220,000
1869	... ..	20,501,000	16,378,000
1870	... ..	29,456,000	18,920,000
1871	... ..	38,141,000	33,761,000
1872	... ..	29,608,000	30,336,000
1873	... ..	33,599,000	28,899,000
1874	... ..	30,379,000	22,854,000
1875	... ..	33,265,000	27,628,000
1876	... ..	37,057,000	29,464,000
1877 (11 months)	... ..	33,612,000	37,626,000
Total	... ..	334,231,000	280,411,000

Excess of Imports, £50,880,000l.

—or at the rate of five millions a year, which corresponds fairly closely with the amounts supposed to be employed in manufactures, fresh coinage, &c., in the country.

Nor must we lose sight of the fact that the value of our Exports has during the last two or three years especially been estimated at the lower prices current among us in consequence of depressed trade, while the Imports have undoubtedly been, in some instances at least, estimated at the higher prices which have been in some measure the result of our own enhanced demand.† It is not values, in all respects, but quantities, which ought to be compared and the quantities of goods exported, which have probably set in motion as much industry at home, are not unfavourable to this country in anything like the same degree. To turn again for a while to the Imports. The Custom House classification of the Imports under their chief heads during the last three years will aid us in this part of our inquiry. It is as follows:—

		IMPORTS—Value.		
		1874.	1875.	1876.
In a raw state to be used for manufacture.....	£146,632,933	£139,047,483	£136,178,430	
Partially manufactured.	30,129,753	28,563,266	30,276,326	
Wholly manufactured....	37,493,430	39,552,176	40,410,984	
Of food, including condiments and stimulants.	152,068,131	162,274,950	163,457,312	
Not properly belonging to any of the foregoing heads	3,768,440	4,496,697	4,831,651	
	370,082,701	373,939,577	375,154,703	

* "Statistical Society's Journal," March, 1877.

† See ECONOMIST of October 20 p. 1244.]

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi S.S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.
(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
*March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *City of Tokio*, P.M.S.S. due 28th February.

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Alaska*, P.M.S.S. sailing 28th February.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	Jan. 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 8
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 8
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

* The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

* No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

* Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

* Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Feb. 18	Feb. 21		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Feb. 20	Feb. 23	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Jan. 4	" 23		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 19	Apr. 8	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	Jan. 11	Mar. 3		M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 26	Apr. 15	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco				P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 28		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 19			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco			

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Feb. 11	Alice Mary	Rogers	Brit. barg.	360	Sydney N. S. W.	Dec. 3	Coals General	Walsh, Hall & Co. H. Ahrens & Co.
" 11	Cairnsmuir	Spowart	Brit. str.	1,123	London			
" 12	Boyan	Boyle	Russ. corvt.	2,000	Nagasaki			
" 13	Haydamak	Tirtoff	Russ. corvt.	1,100	Nagasaki	Feb. 6	Mails and general Mails and general	M. B. Co. M. M. Co.
" 14	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,145	Shanghai & ports			
" 14	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong			

PASSENGERS:—Per str. *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Youd, Mrs. Thomas and child, Lieut.-General Noke, Messrs. Mutsu, Sujimoto, W. H. Macomber, H. Anson, O. Bernsen, St. John Browne, C. S. Bland, C. R. Simpson, Gulick, Katsuma Konish, Nakamura, Atsumi, Yamada, and Ney Leang; 1 European and 334 Japanese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Tibre* from Hongkong:—Messrs. le Comte de Diesbach, Dzuka, wife and infant, Dresser, Scott, Gutschow, Sisters Mathilde and Française.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S.S. "Glenorchy," Dec. 10; S.S. "Caldera," Dec. 10; S.S. "Perim," Dec. 18.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Bertha Marion," July 30; "Fair Leader," September 25; "Sumner R. Mead," October 26; "Laura," November 21.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Aureola," Sept. 19.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Ladoga," Sep. 20; "Rainbow," Dec. 2.

FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 28; "August," Oct. 16.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"O. & O. "Belgie," January 19.

FROM ANTWERP:—"Hotspur," August 25.

FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulakyle," Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM HONGKONG:—"P. & O. "Sunda," Feb. 14.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Glenroy," S.S. "Glamis Castle."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. Feb. 23rd; Hongkong M. M. str. March 3rd; America O. & O. str. Feb. 11th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. str. Feb. 21st.

CARGO:—Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, Yen 178,217.00.

Per French steamer *Tibre*:—5,069 packages.

REPORTS:—The British steamer *Cairnsmuir* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 2nd Feb. at 4 p.m. Had a dense fog till making the Lamocks. From thence to arrival on Japan coast, strong N. E. winds and heavy head sea. Made Rock Island on the morning of the 10th; had to heave to off Vries Island during a heavy snow storm that lasted for eighteen hours; got pilot off Cape Sagami at 3.20 p.m. on the 11th inst.; arriving same day at Yokohama anchorage at 6 p.m., making the passage 9 days and 4 hours from Hongkong.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Feb. 10	Oceanic	Metcalfe	Brit. str.	3,700	San Francisco	Feb. 13	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 11	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Kobe		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 11	Iris	Taylor	Brit. schr.	280	Amoy		Rice	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 12	Tanais	De la Marcelle	Frch. str.	1,735	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 12	Lorne	Mc. Culloch	Brit. str.	1,035	Hiogo	" 14	General	Wilkin & Robison.
" 12	Fire Queen	Hamilton	Brit. barg.	769	Hakodate		General	E. B. Watson
" 12	Galley of Lorne	Mc. Donald	Brit. str.	1,389	Kobe & Nagasaki		General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 13	China	Rose	Ger. schr.	250	Kobe		Ballast	Netherlands Trading Co.
" 13	Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Shanghai & ports		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 13	Akitsushima Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	690	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per French str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Madame Sameshima, Madame Dony and infant, Mademoiselle Stucken, Messrs. D. Monbel and 2 servants, Matsugata, Kugi, Kuichi, Tesima, Kawakami, Kanematsu, Duplaquet, Kawara, Hirayama, Maeda, Ishiware, Sanda, Tani, Narushima, Suyematsu, Ando, Van Lissa, Furuta, Kataoka, Yoshida, Nakagawa, Osawa, Mura Oka, Nishimura Kaouza, Sameshima Sei, Kichi Saburo, Ono, Ichodiro, Oto Makite, Narunaka, Saito Zenbe, Nobata, Mouramatsu, Fukagawa, and 21 Japanese in the steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, for San Francisco:—Messrs. Casley, Brennwald, Hamilton, Meyers, Westson, Elmell, Dr. Jungham, and Mrs. Marshall.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Mar* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Messrs. Russell Stokes, Takinaka, Aoki, Uchisaka, Funo, E. C. Kirby, Hayasaki, John Hall, Kojima, Nakamura, Kamaguchi, K. Nakamura, Okamoto, Hoshino, Kawakura, Kawamura, Yasutomi, Takahashi, Glover, Watanabe and Shirai.

LOADING:—*Messenger*, for New York, quick despatch.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Malacca, for Hongkong and Europe, February 19th.—P. & O. Co.

Alaska, for San Francisco, February 28th.—P. M. Co.

Saikio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, February 20th.—M. B. Co.

for Hakodate, February 8th.—M. B. Co.

Kumamoto Maru, for Kobe, February 18th.—M. B. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. February 19th; for Hongkong M. M. str. February 26th; for America P. M. str. February 28th; for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. February 20th; for Kobe, M. B. Co. str. *Kumamoto Maru*, Feb. 18th; for Hakodate, M. B. Co. str. Feb. th.

CARGOES:—The O. & O. Co.'s steamer *Oceanic* left for San Francisco on the 10th inst., taking 203 bales of Silk, 59 of which were from this port, and the following cargo of Tea:—

	From San Francisco.	New York.	Other cities.	Total.
Shanghai.....	13	—	279	292
Nagasaki.....	—	—	—	—
Hiogo.....	—	58	337	395
Yokohama.....	10	2,633	156	2,799
Hongkong.....	30	—	—	30
Total	53	2,691	772	3516

Per French steamer *Tanais* for Hongkong:—For France, 315 Bales Silk; for London, 64 Bales Silk; for France, 125 Bales Waste Silk. For Hongkong, \$210,500.00 Treasure; for London, \$82,000.00 Treasure.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—\$6,100.00 Treasure.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Laid up.
Cairnsuir	Spowart	British steamer	1,123	London	Feb. 11	H. Ahrens & Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Repairing.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdis	Japanese steamer	1,879	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 7	M. B. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Horai Maru	Frank	Japanese steamer	600	Yokkaichi	Jan. 17	M. B. Co.	
Kinshiu Maru	Hay	Japanese steamer	690	Hakodate	Feb. 6	M. B. Co.	
Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Japanese steamer	1,240	Kobe	Feb. 3	M. B. Co.	
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong	Feb. 5	P. & O. Co.	Kobe.
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,143	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 14	M. B. Co.	Hongkong.
Suminoura Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	925	Sendai	Jan. 16	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. Co.	Hakodate.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Feb. 14	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	Feb. 5	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
SAILING SHIPS.							
Alice Mary	Rogers	British barque	360	Sydney	Feb. 11	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Auriga	Messer	British barque	650	Cardiff	Jan. 18	M. M. Co.	
Coriolanus	Cawse	British steamer	1,045	Nagasaki	Jan. 24	Captain.	For fr'ght ch'ter.
Hammonia	Weller	German barque	408	Takao	Feb. 4	Chinese.	
Hudson	Vaughan	American barque		New York	Jan. 23	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Hattie N. Bangs	E. Bangs	American barque	587	New York	Feb. 7	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands.	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Messenger	Gilkey	American ship	1,027	Hakodate	Dec. 15	Smith, Baker & Co.	New York.
Otago	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
S. R. Bearse	Oakes	Am. barque	607	Philadelphia	Feb. 2	L. Kniffier & Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Alert	4	541	Sloop	Commander R. Boyd Captain Buller, C.B. Captain Dumas Vense Captain Boyle Captain Tirtoff
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1405	Corvette	
FRENCH—Cosmao	12	1900	Corvette	
RUSSIAN—Boyan		2000	Corvette	
„ Haydamak		1100	Corvette	

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

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Deputy Chairman—F. D. SARSOON, Esq.

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Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpots, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID MCLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " 6 " " 4 "
" " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,
Acting Manager

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " " ".....	6 " " " ".....	1	" "
" " " ".....	3 " " " ".....	¾	" "
" " " ".....	1 " " " ".....	¾	" "
" " " ".....	10 days.....	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " ".....	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " ".....	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,**
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates.
No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted.				Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.			
1 prize	of	\$	16,000	1 prize	of	\$	60,000
1 " "	" "	"	4,000	1 " "	" "	"	25,000
5 prizes	" "	"	1,000 each.	5 prizes	" "	"	5,000 each.
8 " "	" "	"	500	15 " "	" "	"	1,000
20 " "	" "	"	100	20 " "	" "	"	500
450 " "	" "	"	30	400 " "	" "	"	100
2 approximations of \$250	" "	"	"	9 approximations of \$500	" "	"	"
Ticket	" "	"	\$6.00	2 " "	" "	"	250
				Ticket	" "	"	\$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively **yen** accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance.
For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

The Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 8.]

February 23, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

TREATY REVISION.

TRREATY Revision is a misnomer for the changes in their relations with the outside world conscientiously desired by a large majority of our fellow-men, natives of these islands. The abolition of the Extra-Territoriality clause in Japan's bargain with Foreign Powers is, we believe, no longer demanded by her diplomatists. They are astute men, and have accepted the position that for some years, at least, it is useless to raise the question. In the second number of this Review, we nearly exhausted the subject—reserving only, for future amplification, when the time seemed to us ripe for their development, certain points of detail; in the fourth, we disposed of the cognate subject of Mixed Courts; and, having thus cleared out of the way collateral and disturbing encumbrances of our equation, we approach, with a certain amount of confidence, the difficult question of the Revision of the Tariff.

For Revision of the Tariff is the only change for which, according to the Treaties of 1858 and subsequent years, any of the parties to these agreements can ask. Supplementary Treaties may be made—generally called Conventions,—abrogating particular clauses of, or adding fresh ones to, the original; but until that original has been so patched, that the best way to amend it is to exchange it for a brand-new one; or until an act of war violently shatters it into fragments; so long it remains in force, and no one party can withdraw from any of the obligations imposed, without the consent of all the others. We say 'all the others' because the 'most-favoured-Nation clause,' providing, as it does, against every possible omission or commission, gives to the Foreign Power which brought out the first edition of the Treaty with Japan, all the additional advantages gained by that which published the fifteenth. If we were not fully persuaded that all the Treaty-makers had at heart the interests of Japan, as well as those of their own countries, and fully recognized the truth that, in a Commercial Convention, as in any other commercial transaction, the only sound and safe basis is the common benefit of both parties, we should be inclined to pity Japan, and to strike in on her side, as the weaker, and as having no full appreciation of the sanctity of Treaties as estimated by her visitors, or perhaps of the obligations, and their consequences, which she was taking on herself. But the case being as it is, all that her foreign friends in the press can do is to discuss, in a spirit of perfect fairness, and with our more extended knowledge of Plutonomy, Trade and Finance, the Revision of the Tariff in its details. This cannot be done within the narrow limits of a single essay in a weekly Review; this article is therefore only prefatory, and will be devoted to an explanation of the obligations incurred by Japan in making her Treaties at all.

The end and purpose of Treaties between independent States is to obtain a reciprocity of mutual advantage.

This is especially the case, or rather this quality is most prominently displayed, in Commercial Treaties, or Conventions, as they should more correctly be called. For Treaties proper, of peace and amity, made at the termination of, or for the purpose of bringing to a close a war, confer merely the passive good of terminating strife; Treaties, offensive and defensive, made between two or more States, for mutual aid—in view of impending or possible encroachment by a stronger Power,—confer more positive and apparent advantages, inasmuch as they give that feeling of security which is derivable from the possession of increased means of defence; but it is reserved for Commercial Conventions to bring into operation benefits to both parties which are immediate, fruitful, and most distinctly visible, because they are measurable by a money standard.

Of course,—though for convenience we have formulated a distinction in terms, the difference between the Convention and the Treaty is apparent, rather than real. It lies more in the right or opportunity of breach, than in the principles applicable to making or interpretation. For—as a Treaty of Peace and Amity is but a manner of settlement of a dispute between two nations, by which the stronger imposes its view of the case for a time, upon the weaker, and exacts surety for the performance of the conditions imposed; or such damages and costs,—in international law called 'indemnity,'—as shall effectually prevent a speedy appeal to arms:—so it may be fairly held to redound to the credit of a nation, rather than to cast a stigma of disgrace upon it, that it should, as soon as possible, by husbanding its resources, pay its damages; and, prepared for taking its revenge, and recouping itself, declare itself unwilling to be longer subjected to such an engagement. Thus Russia, bound by the Treaty of Paris of 1856 to limit the number of her fleet and to respect Turkey's command over the Straits of the Dardanelles, took advantage of France's defeat by Germany in 1870, to declare herself no longer bound by the articles of an irksome and humiliating engagement; and if she had then enforced, instead of merely asserting, what she considered her rights, the practice and opinion of international law and of European diplomacy would have been in her favour. The diplomatic victory she has just gained, by draping her ambition in the standard of religion and the robe of philanthropy, is not so legitimate, and is little likely to be fruitful.

Again, Treaties of guarantee, or offensive and defensive alliances, are frequently broken when the parties to them are called on to fulfil their pledges. When the occasion arises, to meet which such a Treaty was originally made, the bond of amity may have been loosened by misconduct of the other parties, or conflicting interests may have severed the cord which bound the fagot, and the weaker power is left to be broken alone.

The principles regulating the breach of both such classes of Treaty obligations are self-interest and power—as power and self-interest were the motives to the agreements. Moral

obligation and legal sanction have no place in them:—the absence of the first accounted for by want of conscience in the diplomatist, and the deficiency of anything in international relations answering to what, in an individual State, is called 'Public Opinion':—of the second, from the inability of any known tribunal to enforce an award. But the other class of Treaties,—Commercial Conventions,—stand on a different basis; the difference being, as we have said, in the circumstances which may palliate a breach, not in the principles which regulate observance. Commercial conventions are for the furtherance of the welfare of the world: primarily, of course, for the benefit of those immediately concerned, the nations between whom they are made; but ultimately—and by no means remotely—of all mankind. Commerce and Conquest have been personified by the poet as 'armed twins' sowing broadcast the 'grain of freedom.' The image was most happy, but the Platonist can amplify it: for in the wake of Commerce, tread science, knowledge, and the love of man; and after these follow wealth and culture. Commercial Conventions, then, may claim this superiority over Treaties, that they have the sanction of moral obligation. But their rank has its own responsibilities. '*Noblesse oblige.*' In all cases, where the principles and stipulations contained in a Commercial Convention can be maintained, without prejudice to—we had almost written without the absolute ruin of, one or both of the contracting parties, it becomes the duty of each party to carry out its own obligations, trusting to earn the blessing promised to the just man who 'swaereth to his own hurt, and changeth not.' Or, in the event of the Convention being a temporary one; then, from time to time, to renew its obligations, with only such changes of detail as may be necessary, but always with due observance of the basis of principle originally laid down. The prosperity of individual nations, the necessities of particular industries, fluctuate with advancing time and accumulating knowledge; and thus it becomes needful, from time to time, for commercial communities to revise and renew their mutual obligations; but Credit is the life of Commerce, and in all such cases it is essential to its preservation, that the principles of the ancient covenants should be upheld.

When Japan, therefore, seeks to revise the Treaties she has made; she must first show how she is damned by adherence to her obligations; then, how she would be benefitted by their rescission; and, furthermore, must demonstrate that the scheme she proposes for rescission or alteration will not retard, but rather advance, the general interests of humanity. Now, by the Treaties of 1858 and subsequent years, all framed in almost identical terms, Japan accepted and adopted the principle—not of free commercial intercourse between her people and those of other States—but of conceding certain privileges to those peoples, for the purpose of 'facilitating commercial intercourse.' And, to carry that principle into effect, she covenanted to allow mutual trade in manufactures and products, at the ports which she opened for their ingress and egress. Ancillary to these Treaties were Tariffs and Trade Regulations. The scale of Customs duties under the Tariffs was originally adjusted on the principles:—of admitting the necessities of life or trade at a moderate and uniform rate; luxuries at a fair, but increased figure; and of placing on alcoholic liquors a heavy duty, in a proportionate ratio to that which they carry among Western nations. Thus coin, books and stationery, clothing and furniture for personal use were duty free:—articles for building and equipping ships, provisions, coal, timber, machinery, lead, raw silk, cotton and woollen manufactures were placed in a second class, and subjected to an *ad valorem* duty of five *per cent.*; Class III. consisted of intoxicating liquors at thirty-five *per cent.* (with opium altogether prohibited); while under Class IV. were victimized all

goods overlooked and not enumerated in the other divisions, by an imposition of twenty *per cent.* On Exports was placed a uniform duty of five *per cent. ad valorem.*

Difficulties naturally arose in working the new scheme: disputes occurred between importers and Custom House officers, due partly to native ignorance of the goods imported, and the officers' want of familiarity with the posts they were suddenly called upon to fill;—and partly, we have to confess, from foreign attempts to take advantage of native deficiencies. Feelings of mutual mistrust were soon engendered, by distaste of the work on one hand, and well-grounded suspicion of official integrity on the other. Obstructions placed upon dealings between foreign and native merchants without the interference of officials,—especially in connection with the payment or receipt of foreign coin—the capricious character of parts of the Tariff, and the ease with which *ad valorem* duties were adjusted to the prejudice of the Government, and the profit of its servants, by the facile corruptibility of the latter;—all these and other minor causes made the working of this Tariff for mutual benefit practically impossible. In 1868 therefore, a farther Convention was agreed to, the preamble of which recited, among other things:—that the Japanese Government were

"desirous of affording a fresh proof of their wish to "promote trade, and to cement the friendly relations which "exist between their country and foreign nations" and that, according to article IX.,

"In conformity with the treaties . . . all restrictions on trade and intercourse between foreigners and "Japanese, alluded to in the said Notes (certain arrangements therein recited) have been entirely removed, and "proclamations to this effect have been already published "by the Government of Japan.

"The latter, however, do not hesitate to declare that "Japanese merchants and traders of all classes are at "liberty to trade, directly and without the interference of "Government officers, with foreign merchants, not only at "the open ports of Japan, but also in all foreign countries, "on being authorized to leave their country in the manner "provided for by Article X. of the present Convention, "without being subject to higher taxation by the Japanese "Government than that levied on the native trading classes "of Japan in their ordinary transactions with each other."

This new Convention was signed by the Commissioners appointed to revise the Tariff by the high contracting powers—Japan, Great Britain, France, the United States, and Holland; and thereby the present Tariff was fixed on a 'general basis of five *per cent* on the value of all articles imported or exported.' To the class of Free Imports were thereby added:—animals for food or draught, anchors, coal, tea-leads, grain and salt provisions. The export of rice, wheat, barley, and meal made therefrom was prohibited. This prohibition is important, as bearing on the proposition we have enunciated:—that Commercial Conventions are for the benefit of mankind. For it is a legitimate inference from the fact,—that while Japan adopts the principle of free trade in grain, *quid* imports, she rigidly excludes the exportation thereof,—that her food supply is not fully equal to the support of her population. The remission of taxation on this import is, therefore, to her advantage, while she opens a market to foreign holders of surplus produce. The years of home scarcity and foreign aid since 1868 proved these points clearly enough. Of course, with the Government's relaxation of the prohibition of rice for its own profit, we have at present nothing to do.

It does not come within the scope of the present essay to compare the Japanese Tariff with those of other nations. We have endeavoured to show that, in the original Commercial Conventions of 1858, and in their subsequent re-arrangement, the Tariffs were intended to be based upon the principles we have enunciated:—common advantage of the parties to the agreements in

the first place, and collaterally, general benefit to the rest of the world. Enough for us to say now, that, in any future revision, Japan is bound to continue carrying out the principles to which she stands pledged, and from which the general interests of mankind demand that she should not recede. It has been said and written by unthinking or prejudiced men, that by her Treaties she is absolutely bound, without hope of redemption; but this is not so, either by the theory or practice which govern the interpretation of Treaties in general, or by the conditions of her own particular engagements. There is nothing to prevent her proposing a revision of the Tariff; but any scheme of revision which she may propound, must preserve intact the principles to which she has pledged herself by solemn pacts and contracts. Or she must show that the provisions of her scheme are logically deduced therefrom. By a morganatic marriage she has joined the family of nations. She is not received on equal terms within the circle of Western States, for these nations still claim rights of extra-territoriality and participation in the settlement of property; and on her side, she excludes foreigners from free access to the interior of her country and from free intercourse with her people. And as one of the consequences of this half-and-half state of relationship, the West claims a voice in the management of her commercial affairs, and a care of her credit. She has pledged herself to the principles enumerated above:—a fair Tariff on a fixed basis and freedom of intercourse, within certain territorial limits, between her people and ourselves, without governmental interference. From these principles she cannot go back.

PROPERTY IN MONEY.

A SUGGESTION was rather playfully made in a late number of this Review:—that foreign students of the Japanese language might with great advantage employ a portion of the time they now give to the study of ancient Japanese literature, to guiding the modern Japanese Press into right grooves of thought. It assumes a more serious aspect as a practical proposition, to foreigners who—not having acquired the power of reading the native journals in the vernacular—have to trust to the few translations of articles and letters from the metropolitan press which appear in foreign newspapers for their estimate of the progress made by native publicists towards intelligent criticism of their own and other politics. When we consider the really enormous circulation which these native papers enjoy, and the magnitude of the class of pensioned educated gentlemen which has abundant leisure to read and write in them—with little other occupation, indeed;—putting aside for the moment the busy workers who yet seem able to spare time for intelligent perusal of their columns; it is impossible to shirk the conviction that the infant press of Japan is fast growing into a great power that will soon take rank, as with us, among the other Estates of the Realm. Its importance, therefore, as a factor in the problem of Japan's political future, ought not to be underrated, and a considerable fraction of the space at our disposal in these columns will always be given to translations of, and criticism upon, the work of Japanese journalists. The Government, it appears to us—though not formally announcing any relaxation of its Press Laws—has certainly, of late, shown a most wise indisposition to enforce their harsher clauses. Reports of suppression of papers, or of imprisonment of editors, are becoming infrequent; while, on the other hand, opposition writers are becoming bolder. Government has defenders, too, and finds the pen a more effective weapon than the chain; and its assailants, fighting on even ground and equal terms, show now that the virtues of courtesy and

chivalry are not extinct in Japan, though the sword is laid aside. The ingenuity in argument of many of these contributors to the native press cannot have failed to attract attention, though their constant stumbles into little pitfalls of fallacy, and over blocks of fact, may have amused; and though the grace of their style is lost in translation, its lucidity remains. But, as we contemplate their work, Pity becomes so near akin to Love as to be found his twin; and regret grows into grief, as those, whose daily duty brings foreign and native intelligence into contact,—by the medium of translation—find how that medium sometimes distorts, and how wide is the space over which has to be thrown the light of European science to aid Japanese gropers after Truth. Surely those who have overpassed the gulf, might do better service, both to Japan and Europe, by carrying than by fetching.

Two articles appear in these columns to-day, translated from the *Hochi Shimbun*, one advocating the establishment of Co-operative stores as a means of checking the foreign import trade; the other on the question of Property in Money. The former we touch more lightly in another place: the latter appears to deserve serious consideration. For it is possible that, as the writer asks for information on his subject, he may look in the columns of the foreign press for a response, and thus an opportunity is afforded for inculcating sound views on a part, at least, of the great question of currency and coinage. And if we can but get the native press into the habit of translating from foreign papers as we translate from its own, we shall establish a means of communication of considerable value to us all.

The author of the article in question takes as his text, a Notification of the Council of State, dated January 19th, forbidding all tampering with the current coin in the following stringent terms:

"It is hereby notified, that any attempt to deface, or otherwise make unfit for circulation, the coins in current use by either melting or defacing them, is strictly forbidden."

The italics are ours, and we give prominence to the word 'melting,' because it is the one important point in the Notification on which the writer in the *Hochi Shimbun* seeks for light. And the light we can give him is clear and 'dry': he is perfectly right—the Government absolutely wrong. We say 'absolutely' because, by enacting a statute forbidding the melting of coin, it is reviving an error of the European feudal system of very ancient date. Throughout English statute law, which is as good authority on the whole subject as can be referred to, runs a series of enactments for the protection of the coin, stamped with the image and superscription of the monarch. But these are, with only two exceptions, to which we shall presently refer, directed against the offence of diminishing the weight or value of the current coin, by clipping, piercing, 'sweating' (reducing by attrition) or lightening it in any other manner; or against counterfeiting the coin in any way, whether by imitating it in baser metal, or by colouring or 'washing' (i.e. gilding or silvering) coins of a lower denomination, so as to give them the appearance of those of a higher. Also, against importing counterfeit coin, native or foreign; and against 'uttering'—putting into circulation—any such base, counterfeit, lightened or diminished coin of any description whatsoever. But it is clear that the Statutes are all directed against the fraud contemplated or executed, and that the idea of contempt, or treason, by defacing the image or crest of the monarch, had no place in the minds of the lawgivers who enacted them. And we may, we think, in the same way put aside this idea as influencing the *Daijokoro* in the present case. There remains then, only, as a reason for the injunction against the coin being melted, the objection to the diminution in any way of the metallic currency.

In our own history we find two corresponding instances. By statute 9, of Edward III. no sterling money was to be melted down, upon pain of forfeiture thereof; and by the 13th and 14th of Charles II. the offence of melting down any current silver money was made punishable by forfeiture of the same, and also the double value; and in addition, by disfranchisement, if the offender were a freeman of any town; if not, by six months' imprisonment. Now, on both of these occasions in English history, the taxgatherer was particularly active, and the people were striving to save their money from him, by converting it into untaxable plate. Edward III had just overrun Scotland, and was preparing for his first French War; and Charles II was in such distress for money, that he could not pay the wages of his sailors, and was dependent in great measure, for his personal expenses, on a pension received from the French King. But all these statutes have since been revised. The majority of them were repealed by the statute, 2 William IV. c. 34, when the laws relating to coining, &c. were consolidated, and, again, the whole law has been since reviewed, in the direction of mitigating the penalties, by the 24th and 25th Victoriae. c. 99. Melting coin is no longer an offence against English law.

Nor can it be reasonably considered an offence here, or anywhere. The author of the article in the *Hochi Shimbun* enunciates one of the grand truths of Plutonomy, when he writes:—"Money is merchandize." It is merely, as Mill happily calls it, 'an accident of language,' that people are said to buy and sell *with* money, instead of buying and selling money. When a man exchanges a coin for a piece of meat, both parties to the transaction are buyers or sellers, as they elect to call themselves; and it is as correct to say that the moneyed man sells his coin, as that he buys his meat. And to follow still further the *Hochi Shimbun's* argument, he has just as much natural right to melt his coin, and so utilize it to make a button, or a pipe, as he has to convert it into a mutton chop, by the process of selling it. All that modern statutes respecting coin are directed against, in States where Plutonomy is studied and understood, is the protection of the subject against rogues who clip, deface, lighten, or imitate coins, and try to sell them for mutton chops, deluding the butcher into the belief that they are good coins, which he can sell again for boots. A Government very properly reserves to itself the right of coinage. It thereby ensures the standard intrinsic value of coin being kept steady, and, by the confidence which its people have in this being preserved, helps to steady trade. It makes a profit out of the coinage, as payment for its fulfilment of this duty, which is an indirect form of taxation never felt by the people. When coining bullion sent into the Mint by private persons, it makes its profit direct by charging a royalty, or out of the alloy which it adds to the gold or silver to bring the metal down to standard touch; and it makes a large profit on all subsidiary coins turned out, which are considerably below standard. It should also make a third profit on the sale of excess of acids &c. which it has to manufacture for its own purposes. And in a well-managed Mint, all these profits together ought to pay the expense of turning out the standard coin. It would lead us into a different field of argument to show how, in the particular case of the Japanese Mint, it might legitimately make a large profit by becoming a money-making machine for the conversion of American bar-silver into coin for the China trade. This we may do on another occasion.

At present, all we have to consider is the injunction against 'melting' coin in the *Daijokuan's* Notification. Besides the fundamental offence in it which Plutonomy denounces, as an invasion of the rights of property; and besides the error involved in it as a Governmental interference with trade; it is a mistake from another point of view. It is

an indication of uneasiness, which, in a delicate market like that in which money is bought and sold, is very contagious. The Government's motive is clear enough to our minds, and it is to be regretted that the *Daijokuan* is not better advised. The rapid fall in value of the paper currency, coming on the back of some years' steady export of coined bullion by the foreign Banks, has alarmed the cabinet. It is quite possible, too, that during the South Western rebellion, much coin was hidden, and so withdrawn from circulation, in view of possible anarchy, or of a change of government. Coin becoming scarce, the *Daijokuan* seeks to check its decrease by every means, and this is one. A quite ineffective one, because, as the *Hochi Shimbun* points out, only rich men could afford the luxury of such a losing game as melting coin. The true remedies for the present unhealthy condition of Japan's finance are to be sought for in quite other directions.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

OUR friend 'Municeps' of the *Gazette* has good reason to complain of our confusing him with 'A. B. C. and X. Y. Z.' and others "who seek to convince the foreign residents in Yokohama that they 'must perforce live "under what is, virtually, no Government at all.'" The error was palpable, and that it was also inadvertent, was evident from the tenor of the first paragraphs of our article, wherein we formulated our own policy as differing from his; and from an Editorial Note in another column, specially devoted to A. B. C. He will, we are sure, forgive our carelessness, and accept our apology. The other point which we stated against him, to which he takes exception:—that a Council without the official element 'never had been, nor ever could be, made to work'—clearly applied to Yokohama; and his instance of the Shanghai municipality cannot be brought into a parallel line for comparison. The Shanghai community was differently constituted; its *status* in face of the Chinese Government, and the relations between Chinese and foreigners were different to those existent here; the foreign Ministers in China were resident in Peking, a long distance off, and left the matter to be arranged mainly between the Consular Board and the residents, whose relations were of a most friendly character,—not, as here, embittered by disputes to which we have no wish to refer; and notably, Shanghai—at a most critical moment of its municipal life, was happy in the possession of an official, independent of both Ministers and Consuls—Sir Edmund Hornby—who gave its infant municipality his countenance and material support.

Yokohama has never been so fortunate; our demands for equal rights with the Shanghai community, though backed by Sir Edmund, so far as he could back them, have been ignored with that quiet indifference which is so specially irritating; and it is because we are thoroughly convinced that any renewed request of the same character would be simply shelved, as they were, that we characterize 'Municeps' scheme as hopeless of success. On the other hand, the Kobe system was the Ministers' own; official dignity is satisfied by the numerical preponderance of the official element at the Council Board,—while, practically, the government is actually vested in the lay representatives of the community. We advocate its adoption here, because it has none of the qualities which make the other scheme so objectionable to those with whom decision rests, and because experience has shown that—common sense and mutual good-feeling aiding—it has worked well elsewhere, and no good reason can be shown why it should not work just as well here.

But,—'Municeps' argues, with great surface show of reason a Council composed on the Kobe model would be a 'cumbrous representative body'; that it would have sixteen official members, and therefore,—when the necessary

number of lay members were added to it,—would be too large a body for the work it had to do. But the real work of the Council would be done by the sub-committees, and the whole number of members would never attend the monthly meetings, except on such occasions as meetings to receive the Annual Reports, or for the election of officers. Besides, there are always in the Consular Board a certain number of absentees, and of Consuls who 'double' parts,—and as a matter of fact, we are strongly of opinion that, as in Kobé, it would often be difficult to get together a *quorum*. We should be glad to accept his suggestion that only paid Consuls should be *ex-officio* Members of Council and that merchant-consuls should only sit as lay representatives, taking their chance of election with other members of the community;—but is it likely that such a scheme presented to the Consular Board, would find favour there? It would be the best possible thing for the United States if universal suffrage could be done away with, and her intelligent classes know it; but with what hope of success could a motion for their own disfranchisement be put before the ignorant majority?

The *Echo du Japon* has devoted five columns to the subject, but we fail to find in its two long articles any practical suggestion such as we might have reasonably expected from a French journal. The writer dwells much, and with great justice, on the disinclination of the Japanese Government to consent to the administration of municipal affairs being now taken out of its hands. But he totally ignores the important fact that they were entrusted with this administration merely as an experiment (*vide* Mr. Locock's letter to us) and that the decision on this point—the experiment having failed, by no means rests with them. And he advises the re-installation of a municipal Director, in the post lately vacated by Mr. Benson, with a consultative committee of advisers, to be named by the Consular Board, or elected by the community. We need hardly perhaps point out how unlikely it is that any man, whose advice would be worth having, would consent to become one of the 'advisers'—nor how more than unlikely it is that any Municipal Director, paid by the Japanese, would listen with the least attention to their advice.

We retire from the subject for the present. The *Gazette*, by an accident, published a letter to the Consuls from the community, which was still under consideration, and had not been circulated for signature; inasmuch as there was a good deal of preliminary work to be done before it could be submitted. But that letter contained the pith of the proposition for Municipal Reform advocated by this Review; and, though quite willing to accept sensible modification, or indeed to abandon it altogether in favour of any other, of whose success any Reformer can give us better promise,—until such a proposition is made, we shall continue to advocate the Kobé system, which has worked well in the Southern port, and would be as efficient, we are convinced, in Yokohama.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE news received by telegram during this week from Europe are of the greatest importance. Before summarising them, we must take occasion to point out how completely justified have been the complaints recently made against M. Reuter's Agent in Shanghai for his neglect of foreign mercantile interests in Japan. Take these messages, which the Agent here tells us, were delayed, owing to late interruption of the telegraph line:—

"The Greek army has been ordered to stop the invasion of Turkish territory.

"The Powers have promised to protect the northern Greek provinces.

"In accordance with the terms of the armistice, the Turks have evacuated the lines and fortifications of Constantinople. Russian troops have entered the lines.

"There was excitement in the House of Commons. Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to a question, partially confirmed the statement that the Russians had advanced.

"The death of Pope Pius IX is announced."

Is it too much to ask of M. Reuter's Agent in Shanghai, that—when the line does break down—he should, as soon as repairs have been effected, wire to us the dropped messages, instead of leaving us to receive them by steamer?

NOW that we have the complete line of telegrams, it is possible for us to make sense of them, and to get a more or less vivid idea of what has taken place in Europe during the past week or two. First it is clear, as we suggested in the last number of this Review, that the 'old palace party' in Constantinople has got the upper hand in the cabinet. A change of Ministry has taken place. This new Ministry—very properly distrustful of the Gladstone-deluded England which had left Turkey to fight alone, has accepted Russia's overtures to make a separate peace. As a preliminary necessity, to satisfy the *amour-propre* of the Russian people, a small body of troops was admitted into a redoubt within the lines of Constantinople. Part of the arrangement made was that, notwithstanding this breach of the Treaty of 1856, which provided against any such separate arrangement, by Europe giving Turkey a guarantee of autonomy, the Sultan should continue to hold the Dardanelles against the British fleet. Therefore he protested against its approach to his capital, and the fleet had to '*forcer l'entrée*.' Whereupon Gortschakoff telegraphs that he would move up more Russian troops, and occupy the lines in force—but retires his corporal's guard from the redoubt—and the British fleet retires to Besika Bay.

The fact of silk merchants in Yokohama holding their commodity for higher prices, at the tail end of a season and with native currency drooping, is about the best augury for peace that we can discern. As good, in fact, as Prince Bismarck's announcement of his belief that there would be no European War.

M. REUTER'S agent here might do worse than point out to his Shanghai colleague, or to his chief in Europe, that—unless merchants in Japan are better served than they have been during the past month, they may possibly help themselves. An extremely facile method is open to them. As soon as telegrams are published in a newspaper, they become public property. What is to prevent a body of subscribers in Yokohama arranging, with some one in Shanghai, with the Manager of the *North China Daily News* for instance, to wire over to a newspaper here, all the messages published each morning there? A good deal might be saved by the use of a code, as in many cases we do not want the actual text, and an intelligent man would discriminate easily such messages as must be sent *verbatim*. The *Yokohama Chronicle* would be charmed to undertake the task, for nothing, of printing and circulating the messages among subscribers—on condition of being allowed, half-an-hour afterwards,—to publish an Extra containing the news.

DO not the brains of Platonists, (they have no bowels) yearn towards the author of that article on Co-operative Stores which appears in another column of this Review—translated from the *Hochi Shinbun*? How right he is, in his main principle, and how wrong in his deduction! Is there no sinologue who will tell him that demand regulates supply, and that, if foreign goods are fancied, foreign goods must be had? That, in a month after the establishment of his Co-operative Company, its Directors would be telegraphing to Manchester for foreign goods? It is curious to observe how these Japanese half-grasp an idea. Nothing can be sounder than this writer's proposition to bring manufacturer and consumer into closer contact, nothing more rotten than his deduction that the foreign manufacturer will be thereby excluded from competition with the native.

Another interesting point in these native publicists' work is their sublime indifference to details. This gentleman, for instance, writes simply from the point of view obtainable from Tokio. It is the 'us' of the capital who are to be supplied at nearly cost price with *Hakatayori*, *Yukitsumugi*, *Yonezawa-hachijo* and other fineries: all the middlemen may go hang. And how entirely he overlooks the fact that, in a country like this, the bagman he proposes to send round to *ajq* factories, to buy direct, would simply take to himself

all the profits of the various middlemen, instead of giving the benefit to his masters of the Co-operative Company. Before any scheme of this sort could be successfully put into practice in Japan, the nation has to learn the lesson that 'honesty is the best policy.'

WE have to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of the 3rd Annual Report of the Minister of Education for the 8th year of Meiji, which reaches us "with the compliments of the Senior Vice-Minister of Education, Jushii Tanaka-Fujimaro Sama. We shall give due notice to it in the next number of the Review.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

WE do not wish to alarm any one, but it is useless to evade facing the strong probability that something more than head winds keeps the *Belgic* out of port. The statement made by an evening newspaper that she did not leave San Francisco until the 25th is not confirmed by the Company's Agent, and is contradicted by the fact that telegrams of earlier date were received by a local Bank announcing the shipment of treasure. Bankers are not in the habit of keeping dollars for five or six days on board of a vessel in port, and the receipt of the Bank's telegram may be taken as pretty conclusive evidence of the imminent despatch of the ship. We expect that we shall not be found far out in a guess that her machinery has broken down. Otherwise there is no cause for alarm, as she is well supplied with sailing power, and is an extremely well-built, strong, staunch vessel. We wish her a safe and speedy arrival in port.

The *Sunda*, with the London mail of the 4th of January arrived here yesterday morning. The *Suminoye Maru*, from Hokodate, and the *Tokio Maru*, from Shanghai and way ports, arrived on the 19th and 21st inst. respectively. The *Malacca* left with the outward home mail on the 19th, due in London on the 8th of April. The *Saikio Maru* left on the 20th for Shanghai and coast ports, without taking the American mail as was expected, due by the *Belgic*. The *Volga* leaves on Tuesday morning at daylight with the French mail, and the *Alaska* is advertised to leave for San Francisco on the 28th. It is to be hoped that she will have better weather, and make better time on her return voyage, than on her last trip hitherwards.

The whole community will hear with great pleasure that the Choral and Dramatic Societies have united to give us an entertainment, when both the Arts they cherish will furnish material:—a comedy and some of Arthur Sullivan's beautiful music. The performance will be in aid of the China Famine Relief Fund: and thus, in another sense than that in which Shakespeare cast the thought, will be shown how 'the quality of mercy is twice blessed'; we shall have a charming evening's amusement, and the Chinese will get a number of dollars.

The case of the Japanese Government *versus* Hartley, for alleged smuggling of opium, has gone for the present in favour of the defendant. We cannot of course publish the report *in extenso* unless we were to give a supplement, which the existing resources of our office do not enable us to present to our readers. But proper notice shall be taken of the case next week.

We hear by private telegram from Shanghai, that Mr. Thorburn is the successful candidate for the post of secretary to the Municipal Council. There were a large number of applicants, some dating from Japan, but Mr. Thorburn's long residence in Shanghai and the advantage of being on the spot, has enabled him to obtain the post. We hope we shall be soon able to announce the appointment of an equally good man to a similar post here. But we have first to get our Municipal Council; and, at our present rate of motion, this event will not probably soon take place.

A good example of its necessity may very soon be afforded, in the extremely likely contingency of an accident happening some night to a mat shed, where Mr. White's acrobats are now performing. We do not wish to interfere with Mr. White's getting a livelihood; indeed, we have shown, by an extremely lengthy notice recently given of his exhibition, that we wish him success in a very spirited endeavour; but we can't risk a repetition of the 1866 fire; and certainly the proper place for matsheds or circuses &c. is on the open ground in our rear, not in our midst

among thickly crowded houses and godowns. We agree with the *Herald* in begging the interference of the Consular Board, as we have no Municipal officer to order the removal of the danger.

On Tuesday next, a meeting of subscribers to the new Race Club is called, to take place in the Gaiety Theatre, when a code of Rules will be presented which have been most carefully drawn up, discussed, argued over, revised, re-revised, and finally passed by the joined representatives of the two extinct Clubs recently appointed a committee to do the work. It is much to be regretted that the presence in this community of a few cantankerous men who oppose, for the mere sake of opposing, and write abusive letters to newspapers, have prevented the committee publishing their Rules before the Meeting takes place. It is quite possible that a fresh eye, cast over them, might have detected some error or omission, which will surely pass unnoticed in a crowded general Meeting. That nothing of importance has been forgotten we can assure our readers, and also that, generally, the Code does credit to its framers, and ought to give satisfaction to all sportsmen. On one vital point the *Japan Times* will have to join issue with the Committee, but we defer further reference to it until after the publication of the Code.

While on the subject of sport, we have to note that two accidents, one rather serious, occurred to foot-ball players last Saturday. Last year a man broke his thigh, down in Kobe, and a friend from London enumerates a number of similar disasters occurring there, culminating in one unfortunate breaking his neck. Football is a splendid game, but it is too dangerous for bankers and merchants to play at. Boy's bones are more or less elastic and tough,—and there are any amount of boys,—but as men advance in life, especially in the East, their bones get brittle and accidents such as these occur to merchants and bankers, of whom the supply does not always exceed the demand.

This is the bulletin of last Saturday's casualties:—

"One gentleman had the small bone in his leg broken, and another had the skin taken off the whole length of his nose, as well as receiving a nasty kick on the leg. Kicks were accepted with good temper; and tumbles were the order of the day, being both numerous and severe."

The Chinese compradores and other Celestial residents of Yokohama, have come forward nobly (at the instigation of their Minister and Consul) with subscriptions for the relief of their unfortunate fellow-countrymen now suffering from famine. Over \$10,000 have been already subscribed. It is with extreme regret that we express our conviction that very little, if any, of the grain bought with all this money will ever reach the famine-struck districts. Our means of informing ourselves on the state of China are special, and reliable, and we know that the grain sent for relief is stopped and stolen *en route*, as it approaches the people for whom it was intended. The only method of relieving them is to bring them down to the food, not to take the food to them.

To turn to a more agreeable subject connected with China. We have received from Hongkong the 25th half-yearly report of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Twelve years ago, when this institution was in its infancy, this journal hailed its establishment with commendation of the principles on which it was started, and prophesied its success. That it should have surmounted, and left behind it disasters which must have killed a Bank with less vitality, or founded on a less sound basis, was to be expected: but that it should so rapidly have recovered its high credit and position is a proof of the excellent management, both at head-quarters and at all its branches, which now distinguishes it. A profit of \$539,000 for the half year's work from June to December, 1877 during a period of European War and general depression of trade, is indeed remarkable and justifies our ancient prediction that the Bank would rapidly take the lead in financial circles in this part of the world. Its success too in bringing out the China Loan will not be unmarked by Japanese statesmen.

We remark that Hoshi Toru *san*, a Japanese gentleman who has been called to the English bar by the Benchers of the Middle Temple, has during the week been admitted to practice in our branch of the Supreme Court. It is possible that such men as he may, by perseverance and study, qualify themselves to constitute in Japan a satisfactory Court to which foreigners, hereafter, may not object to submit.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Qy. 3. Were the actual incomes of the Nobles larger or smaller than as represented by their official rent-rolls, and have they now, as a matter of fact, more money to spend on themselves, than they had in old times?

N. or M.

NOTE. X's answer to N. or M.'s question about the actual incomes of Nobles in the *Japan Times* of February 16 is

confusing. He speaks of 'official lists of the Daimiōs' revenues,' and then in the same breath tells us that these were 'the assessed values of the total production of the provinces, and were very far from being correct.' After informing us that the 'lord of Kaga had a revenue of 1,200,000 koku' he says that 'his province ought to produce 1,200,000 koku, and this it never did.' Finally, he winds up with the statement that "the Daimiō received a certain portion, varying according to the tenure (generally a fourth or a third, called *yotsu* or *mitsu mononari*) of what was really produced." In the first place, it is incorrect to speak of 'official lists of the Daimiōs' revenues.' No such lists exist. The figures which we find in the *Bukan* are the total estimated yields of the various fiefs, that is to say, the amount estimated in koku of rice, of all the crops grown in the fief. *Taka* is the Japanese term for this assessed yield, and includes the profit of the farmer, as well as the share of the produce paid to the lord. Dr. Dickson, in his book entitled "Japan," calls these assessments 'revenue,' and the error once rooted in the minds of foreigners, is very hard to eradicate. Even X. appears to have thought now and then during the writing of his note, that *taka* was revenue; but if he will look at any Japanese book on the subject of rent-charges, he will find that *taka* means assessed yield.

Before the Tokugawa period, each fief was required to furnish a certain number of armed men in proportion to the amount of food which it was expected to produce, and this was probably the reason why assessed yield, and not revenue, was used as the measure of the value of fiefs.

That the assessed yield was 'far from being correct, is quite true, but not in the sense which X. intends. It was usually under the mark, and became so more and more as time went on, because the farmers gradually reclaimed waste land, which was not taxed at all, and never assessed. But X. seems to think that the assessment was in excess of the actual yield, for he says that the province of the lord of Kaga "ought to produce 1,200,000 koku; and this it never did."

There is an error here, which must be got rid of before we proceed any further. The assessment of the Daimiō of Kaga was 1,022,700 koku, not 1,200,000. No doubt X. intended his figures to be in accordance with the native authorities, and he meant to say that the province of the lord of Kaga "ought to produce 1,022,700 koku; and this it never did." There was, however, hardly a single Daimiō whose fief did not yield from 20 to 25 per cent more than the assessment, and the Daimiō of Kaga was certainly not one of them.

Of the total estimated yield, the lord of the soil took a certain proportion, to which the word 'revenue' would be rightly applied. In the dominions of the Shōgun, the lord usually received four-tenths, and this is what is meant by *yotsu mononari*; *mitsu mononari* would mean three-tenths (not a third as X. says). But in the dominions of the Daimiō the rent-charges were generally higher, and not infrequently reached seven and even eight-tenths. I have not met with any Japanese works on the subject which give information concerning the rent levied by Daimiōs, and any authority on that point is only verbal; but there is a large amount of information about this and other related matters in native printed books.

STUDIOSUS.

Qy. 3. Can any of your readers give me information respecting the comparative value of money in Japan five centuries ago, and at present? N. or M.

NOTE. I surmise that "N or M" by "comparative value of money 500 years ago and at present" means a comparison between what could be bought for a certain sum of money then, and what the same sum would procure at present. But perhaps he also means the comparative value of ancient and modern Japanese coins.

The latter question may easily be solved by a simple analysis of ancient coins, and "X" in your last issue gives some information on this point, which however in more than one respect is inaccurate. Let me first state, that neither *ōban* nor *koban* existed 500 years ago; they were for the first time coined by Nobunaga in the period *Ten-shō*, (1573-1591). The *Kenji-koban*, which "X" mentions as coined in the *Kenji* period (1275-1278) has nothing whatever to do with that epoch. The *ōban* in question was coined in the 7th year of *Hō-yei* (1710), and

as it was stamped with the letter 乾, *Ken*, it was called *Ken-ji koban* (*Ji* meaning letter). In the period *Ken-ji*, 建治, referred to by "X", the only coins in use were copper "cash".

We have much later calculations at our disposal than those given by "X". The figures quoted by him are those found in a Government notification from the 4th year of *Kei-ō* (1868). At that time, however, the Japanese were not in a position to make an exact analysis; and later assays made at the Osaka Mint, and published by the Okunashō in a notification dated Mei-ji 7th year, 8th month, (August 1875) differ considerably from the former calculations. Thus, to confine myself to the instances given by "X", we have:—

- 1.—One hundred *Kei-chō koban* (coined 1601) contain
Gold 405.31793 Momme
Silver 67.40320 "

Compared with the present currency, one *Kei-chō koban* is therefore worth (intrinsically) Yen 10.25.

- 2.—One hundred *Ken-ji koban* (coined 1710) contain
Gold 207.26366 Momme
Silver 41.12966 "

Consequently, one *Ken-ji koban* is worth Yen 5.25.

- 3.—One hundred *Gen-roku koban* (coined 1695) contain
Gold 266.81741 Momme
Silver 204.28726 "

Consequently, one *Gen-roku koban* is worth Yen 7.00.

- 4.—One *Kei-chō ōban* (coined 1601) contains
Gold 29.60506 Momme
Silver 12.95221 "

and is intrinsically worth Yen 76.15.

All of the above contain a very small *pro mille* of copper and other metals, but as those figures are of no significance in estimating the value of the coins I have left them out.

The ancient coins of Japan are so numerous, that it would take too much space to enumerate the values of them all; besides, I do not think that was what "N or M" wished to know.

To compare the worth of Japanese money generally in ancient days and at present, is extremely difficult. I have tried to form an idea on the subject in the following way:

Say that in the year 1598 one *Riyō* Gold (one *koban*) bought $3\frac{1}{2}$ *Koku* i.e. 350 *Shō* of rice.

Further remember that the measure called "*Shō*" then was equal to about 1.04 of the present *Shō*.

Take one *koban* of that time as equal to Yen 10.25.

Calculate the present price of rice to be, say 13.5 *Shō* for 1 Yen.

We then get:

1 *koban* = Yen 10.25 = 350×1.04 *Shō*, that is, in the year 1598 the equivalent of 1 Yen bought about 35.5 *Shō*,
whilenow, 1 Yen buys about 13.5 *Shō*,

or in other words, a certain quantity of coined metal would in the year 1598 buy more than two and a half times the amount of rice it now does.

A calculation of this kind is, however, almost useless, owing to the arbitrary way the weight and quality of coins were formerly fixed in this country. Thus, in the year in question, one *ōban*, i.e. a Ten-Riyō piece,—which should of course be equal in intrinsic value to ten *koban*,—actually only contained Gold and Silver amounting to the value of about seven *koban* and a half; and yet it would in commerce pass as equal to 10 *koban*; hence it is clear, that if the above calculation had been made on the quantity of rice obtained for one *ōban*, instead of one *koban*, the result would have been greatly different. When I further consider the way coins were repeatedly reduced in size and purity, without anything like a corresponding rise in the price of land and grain, I can only look upon all Japanese coins prior to the issue of the present currency, as a kind of "satsuma," with quite an arbitrary and nominal value—but with a little more "*kin*" about them than the modern "*kinsatsu*."

For the sake of those who are in the habit, when hearing of "*riyō*" to think of "*yen*" and consider these terms identical, I may point out that the above calculation shows, that a man possessing a hundred *riyō* in the year 1598, owned more than ten times as much "coin" as a

person having one hundred *yen* nowadays; and further, that the former for his 100 *ryō* could buy over twenty five times as much rice as the latter can buy now for his 100 *yen*.

WILLIAM BRAMSEN.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter VIII. THE TEA-DRINKERS.

GROWING on Southern slopes or in sheltered gardens, and owning no beauty but its undying verdure, there is a lowly bush whose leaves distil an essence the most soothing and the most domestic in all nature's nursery. Centuries ago, when the arrow and the sword were the tokens of power, and the fame of strong rulers was proclaimed by the death-cries of their victims, the godlike attributes of this shrub were acknowledged with no less enthusiasm than to-day, and the successful evocation of the spirit that dwells among its foliage, constituted an art scarcely second to the poet's or the painter's. The sovereign of this science was one who having fairly and bravely finished his allotted portion of life's toil, raised himself out of the turbulent tide of human pains and passions on to the shores of some flower-peopled island visited only by the cuckoo and the nightingale, and there, building him an ungarnished cottage of knotless wood and comfortable thatch by the margin of a moon-lit mere, peacefully awaited his end, weaving wreaths of the four virtues his creed inculcated, refinement, courtesy, moderation and frugality.

Such was the ideal master of the art, while its technical professor was one skilled to subtlety in the concoction of a cup of tea!

More than natural, indeed, were the qualities attributed to this divine beverage, and many are the illustrious names associated with the science * to which it gave its name, but it had no more eminent or devoted patron than the regent Taiko.

In truth, to one like Hideyoshi, who had heard nothing through all his years but the clamour of factions and the din of battle, from the afternoon on which, a poor errand lad, he fled with six pieces of gold† entrusted to him by his

* This science (*cha no yu* or *chado*), though its name merely points to the art of tea-making, involved, in reality, the study of æsthetics, and comprised a philosophy founded on the teachings of the spirit that seems to dwell in everything beautiful and fair. This philosophy owes its existence in part to the "Zen-shu" sect of Buddhism. It is said that the tea-plant was brought from China to Japan a thousand years ago by Kisen Hoshi a priest of Kiyoto. Its use, however, remained unknown during two centuries and a half, when Senko kokushi, a devotee of the Zen-shu faith, made a voyage to China and recognizing in the pure, soothing beverage he there tasted for the first time, a type of the creed his sect professed, constituted himself a teacher of tea-making on his return to Japan. Thus the infant essence was by accident born at once into a graceful atmosphere, with which, however, the Epicurean ideal of the Japanese would probably sooner or later have surrounded their domestic divinity. What ameliorations has not the household recipe undergone, since the disciples of Senko, at their temple of Shofukaji in Chikuzen, cast the half-cured leaves into an iron cauldron, and evoked their balm and bitterness together with a decoction of Salt and water! F. B.

† Kiku, the wife of Yasuke, a poor farmer who lived at Nakamura in Owari, after some years of childless wedlock, dreamed that in answer to her prayers a sun-beam hid itself in her bosom and subsequently assumed the shape of a son, whom she called Hiyoshi. Eight years afterwards the boy's father died, and his mother became the wife of Chikumi, a retired man-at-arms. The church was at first proposed as a profession for Hiyoshi, who was accordingly entrusted to the care of the priests at a temple called Komiyoji. But reflection convinced the lad that priesthood and mendicancy were cognate pursuits, and though he evinced a wonderful aptitude for any thing savouring of arms, his mind seemed utterly incapable of all theopathy, and he directed his strategic abilities so successfully to the persecution of his holy guardians that they gave him the nickname of Sarunosuke (Monkey.)

History says that when the priests had finally decided on sending Hiyoshi home in disgrace, the boy, then only 10 years old, obtained possession of a sword, and made himself so unpleasant to the reverend gentlemen that they consented to equip him handsomely, and restore him to his step-father with letters of eulogy.

After various unsuccessful essays in menial positions, Hiyoshi finally went to the province of Totomi and there became the servant of a yeoman called Matsushita. This time the youth's abilities seem to have been appreciated. He was well treated, and after a time his master commissioned him to purchase a suit of armour in Owari, where men wore a form of cuirass that Hiyoshi described as particularly convenient. But when the young man found himself in possession of six gold pieces, it occurred to him that he would be more than unwise if he allowed scruples of honesty to prevent him from seizing this, his first opportunity of equipping himself and becoming a soldier. He accordingly purchased a sword and a shirt of mail with Matsushita's money, and entered the service of Nobunaga. It is said that when he became Prime Minister, he sent for Matsushita, then a white-haired old man, and in the presence of all the Court confessed the theft, and restored the six pieces of gold in the form of a revenue of ten thousand measures of rice. F. B.

master, to the time when the brightest reputation in Japan showed pale beside his own, there must have been something peculiarly charming in the tea-drinker's gentle philosophy, something exquisitely attractive in a creed that found all the essentials to happiness in a quiet retreat, sheltered from the breath of winter and the gusts of ambition, where life, cheered by draughts of the never-palling nectar, and moving to the measure of nature's harmony, might be itself a reflection of the æsthetics and poetry that constituted its study. But in addition to its fascinations for the tired veteran, this philosophy also promised the astute ruler no small aid in his efforts to restore the social equipoise, at that time gravely disturbed by a spirit of intrigue and discontent. If men's tastes could be turned from the passion-stirring wine to the genial coterie, where art was discussed amid objects that exemplified its chastest forms, and luxury confined to novel and delicate methods of preparing the balmy infusion, the sword might at last find rest and the headsman a sinecure. These, as Taiko himself declared, were the motives that persuaded him to become a disciple of Sen no Rikiu, the sage of tea-drinking sages.

Sen no Rikiu's circumstances introduced him to the world as Naya Yoshiro, the fishmonger, but his tastes, like the poet's wings, raised him far above the atmosphere of the mart and abacus. He had already become a magnate of the art he loved, when the Regent's generosity made him an independent gentleman with ample means * to indulge his refined inclinations, and, in the sad end, one of the three cardinal crimes of his patron's career afforded him an opportunity of proving that courage had no cause to dread enervation in the placid pursuits of the philosophy he obeyed. For the apparatus of Rikiu's science, the miniature kiln, the iron urn, inornate but faultlessly symmetrical, the white-wood ladle, the polished caddy, the air-tight casket and the ebony salver, were all tended by a daughter with features the type of her father's philosophy, restful, winsome and chaste. Hardly discerning the tenderer aspects of humanity across a cloud of projects and solicitudes, the Regent visited and revisited Rikiu's house, heedlessly watching Kiyō's graceful services, until the light of her loveliness, stealing into some vacant corner of his heart, began to glimmer before his eyes at strange seasons in the camp or cabinet. Rikiu, however, faithful to a promise which the Lady Yodo's jealousy had exacted, and true to the continent tenets of his own creed, refused to grant the girl to Taiko's asking, and the Regent, who found nothing more unwonted than a denial, came no more to visit his friend.

But the philosopher loved his patron too sincerely to be happy in their separation, and trusting much to the results of prayer, made a pilgrimage to the most distant shrines of Japan. In his travels he reached the province of Bishu, and at the temple of Komiyoji found the school where the Regent had studied penmanship in his early years. Here, among their most valued treasures, the priests preserved a little desk, dirty, notched and ink-daubed, with the characters 'Sarunosuke' scrawled or carved upon its unvarnished surface. This Sen no Rikiu purchased and carried carefully home, partly prompted by unreasoning affection, partly hoping that in the presence of such a souvenir, the Regent's thoughts might travel back to the threshold of his life, and so, in passing, light upon the footprints of their former friendship. But Taiko, believing that the object of this act was to insult him by reminding men of his ignoble origin, in an ever-repentant moment sent an order desiring Sen no Rikiu to commit suicide. "Tell the Regent," said the philosopher composedly to him who carried the order, "that I am glad to give my life in exchange for the pardon he will presently grant me." Then having set his house in order, and prepared himself a last draught of the nectar he loved, he turned his face towards the palace of his friend, and holding the dagger half buried in his body, wrote these lines;—

"The biting cold, the blighting heat,
"The shrewdest pains we here discern,
"Shall they be known within the urn
"Or felt when pulses cease to beat?
"Then all the tears our daughters weep
"Shall nurse no blossom of regret,
"Nor mirth of friends that soon forget
"Disturb our long unbroken sleep."

* The Regent gave Sen no Rikiu a revenue of three thousand measures of rice. F. B.

Sen no Rikiu had seven pupils, and amongst them none was reputed to have inherited a larger portion of his master's art than Seta Kamon. Whether it was chance or fatality that made this pupil the favorite of the Regent's nephew, as the master had been the Regent's, Kamon found ready access at all times to the Palace of Pleasure, and now, intent upon the mission Ishida had entrusted to him, made his way without any difficulty to the Prime Minister's Tea Pavilion, just as the shadow of the weeping willow was beginning to creep eastward over the surface of the lake.

Hidetsugu, while obeying three of the tea-drinker's philosophical doctrines, had certainly neglected the fourth in the construction of this pavilion, for extravagance may be attained by the elaboration of elements, however simple, just as the most fanciful of brilliant beauties is sometimes represented in a group of pure ice-spangles under easterly eaves at sunrise. The ceiling was divided into nine squares by gnarled and strangely contorted saplings of rare trees, and each square, closely ribbed with bamboos of various ages and varieties, from the slender mat-rush to the giant-jointed "moso,"* exhibited a marvel of rustic elegance and mechanical skill. The walls, of a rich brown tint, receded at one side into two alcoves of pearl gray plaster, wherein were enshrined gems of thought in sages' autographs, or curiosities of ceramic and anaglyptic art. Even the little door with its arched top, carried on a glossy white surface exquisitely moulded flowers and landscapes modelled in coloured clays, while perhaps the most admirable part of all was the verandah and its far projecting roof, for neither pillar, trave, nor rafter bore any trace of saw or chisel, but each seemed to have grown into the other as naturally as the wisteria that climbed along the eaves beyond.

Yet nothing within the pavilion seemed in excess, when one passed without, where the flute-like notes of the mavis blended with the babble of a miniature rivulet, that twined its white arms round mossy rocks, or crept softly in and out between clusters of iris and lotus. There, the daintiest feet were tempted by winding lines of stepping-stones, slabs of close-grained granite or highly-polished shales, some slate-coloured, some green, some streaked with milky veins of quartz, and the shape of each so craftily adjusted to its neighbour's outlines, that the whole might once, it seemed, have formed an unbroken band of rock, until the turf, stealing across at uncertain intervals, had converted its continuity into a chequered series. In corners where the cedar and the pine cast their deepest shade, stood two smaller pavilions, disposed so as to escape the touch of the declining sun-beams. Looking from the one, across intervals of well trimmed tea-bushes, and between mountains of azalea, where billows of brilliant hues climbed upon each other, the eye discovered a landscape of ever augmenting loveliness in the distant gardens of the palace, while beyond the other, which perfectly represented a farmer's cottage, stretched a rustic scene, where design made itself forgotten, so natural were the watery rice-fields, the deep-loamed upland and the dreary stretch of sedge, so dreary that one waited unconsciously to hear issue from it the bittern's boom. But above all, there brooded among these creations such a spirit of perfect art, that the tone of every component, even while preserving its faultless individuality, melted sweetly into the harmony of the full chord, and the eye seemed to carry from each portion some impression that enhanced the charms of its neighbour.

Often as the grace of these things had entranced Hidetsugu, a passionate lover of everything beautiful in nature or art, he always seemed to find there some fresh excellence, some new proof of life's inestimable value; and now sat gazing with that exquisite appreciation that is frequently prophetic of loss. Seta Kamon, on the contrary, devoted his whole attention to the collection and disposal of sundry equipage and apparatus, which, whether to be found in the alcoves, or drawn from a cellaret that lay basking in the sunbeams, Kamon assembled and arranged with all the precision of long habit, and the fussy assurance of one who knows that he has acquired ability to command success.

First there was a model of the "peerless mountain," in all its graceful majesty from the summit to the sea; the rivers

* A species of bamboo that attains a very large size, and has peculiarly graceful foliage.

and curved bays that bathe its feet as well as the snows that sparkle on its crest, crystallized into frosted silver, the forests and hamlets depicted in embossments of chiselled gold, while the gray cinder ridges and black scoræ were aptly reproduced in the roughly crusted iron that formed the ground work of the whole. Nor was the reality of the delineation impaired, when Kamon built up a pile of glowing charcoal in the bosom of the volcano, and the steam of boiling water began to issue from the crater's mouth, for this metal Fujisan was but the furnace and urn of the tea service. Then there was a pitcher of jade, a bronze lion exhaling breaths of fragrant incense, a little ladle, its cylindrical end and long handle one piece of snow white china, a bamboo whisk, some cups of almost transparent porcelain, and various other paraphernalia, all of which Kamon handled with a deference addressed to their owner, and an indifference demanded by his own qualifications.

His preparations completed, he did not risk the offer of his nectar to an uncongenial mood, by interrupting the Minister's reverie, but wrapping himself in a complacent quiet, suggestive of leisurely achievement, awaited the moment when Hidetsugu, unsolicited, transferred his attention from the features of spring to the cosy equipage his visitor had so skilfully disposed. That was the moment for the crowning display of Kamon's science. With a miraculous celerity and yet no semblance of haste, he removed the cover of the caddy, and almost before one breath of the delicious aroma had escaped, transferred a modicum of tea-dust* to the conveniently placed cup. A slight matter indeed that transfer, and yet in the skill that so unerringly estimated the capacity of the cup, the quality of the tea and the size of the spatula, years of study and practice were concentrated. Then followed the services of the china ladle; once, twice and almost a third time, it poured its steaming contents over the dilating dust, and then the whisk, plunging into the turbidity, compelled every lurking atom to surrender its essence.

"Has it ever occurred to your Excellency," said Kamon as he handed the sweet-smelling beverage to Hidetsugu, "that the history of a tea-leaf resembles the story of human life? The shrub in the garden, producing at first nothing, and yet demanding care and nurture, represents childhood; the plucking of the leaf, its manipulation and curing, on which in so great a measure depends the perfection of the flavour and bouquet, are the exercises and lessons whose outcome is the patriot or the poltroon; the moisture and mildew that rob the choicest "Uji" of its perfume and excellence, are the breaths of envy and slander that tarnish the fairest reputation, and the bitterness that exudes from the dust left too long steeping, is the rust of old age that corrodes the once vigorous judgment."

"Truly, Kamon, your simile is excellent," said the Minister, "but if you allow me, I think I can complete it by adding that tea made as you make it, and separated from the dust at the exact juncture of maturity as you separate it, represents the consummate victory of science married to address in some vital crisis, while the absorption of the perfect beverage finds its parallel in the death of a noble man before decay has touched his vigour. It is scarcely just to deprive your divinity of his most romantic attributes, Kamon," added Hidetsugu laughingly.

But Kamon, who while his host was speaking, had busied himself tilting his cup and looking with a certain embarrassment at the capricious curves of the dregs, showed no disposition to share the Minister's merriment.

"Your Excellency suggested the simile," he replied gravely, "and might therefore well supplement my imperfect statement."

"And which phase of the many that your tea typifies do you find represented in me, Kamon?" asked Hidetsugu, still smiling.

"That, please your Excellency, in which the full-flavoured and richly scented leaf has just been touched by the moisture and mildew," answered Kamon, now bowing his head and imparting an air of reluctance to his speech.

"That is to say, by the breath of envy and slander" said Hidetsugu, who began to see that Kamon's words were not altogether insignificant.

"Such is in truth my meaning, and I trust your Excellency will pardon its presumption," replied Kamon. "Never did flies cluster thicker about a rice-trencher than your

* The practice of making tea from the leaf is only 115 years old in Japan. Up to that time the dust was always used.

traducers surround the Regent today. In other times no doubt, His Highness would have quickly blown away the scum of calumny, and looked only at the truth below, but now—and alas! that such as I should be able to say so—his inclinations make it pleasant to be unjust. Since the birth of Hideyori, every member of the court has been allowed to discover that the Regent only seeks a plausible reason for removing his adopted son, and your Excellency does not need to be told that when Taiko seeks, many join the search.”

“Go on, Kamon, nothing you say surprises me,” said the Minister, for however accurate his anticipations, the aspect of their imminent accomplishment had so dismayed him, that his pallor arrested Kamon’s speech.

“Pardon me, your Excellency, but words that cause pain to those we love and respect fall very tardily from the lips,” resumed Kamon bowing. “Your Excellency’s manner of life, the state inseparable from the high office of Prime Minister, the trifling amusements that lighten your hours of leisure, nay, the very splendour and luxury of this palace which the Regent himself caused to be constructed, have furnished themes, not indeed to your enemies, *they* are too few, but to those who value the Regent’s favour more than loyalty and truth. And when I say that nothing but the advice and entreaties of the Privy Council and other members of the government have prevented the Regent from taking a step half the nation would resent, your Excellency will appreciate how far His Highness’ inclinations have disposed him to credit these calumnies.”

Again Kamon ceased speaking, for it seemed that Hidetsugu paid no heed to his words.

The Minister indeed sat like one unconscious. Fate had assumed the control of his mind, and sensations hitherto unknown thrust back the promptings of his noble nature. The burthen of the story he had just heard, though confused at first by echoes, still vibrating in his heart, of past kindnesses and ungrateful returns, gradually shaped itself into a bitter denunciation of the Regent’s injustice, while strangely and most unhappily, now in the very presence of approaching catastrophe, his hopes and aspirations assumed proportions before unperceived, and the future he might have reached looked so fair as it receded, that sharp regrets and passionate appeals against prejudice and wrong roused a fierce mood of resistance, only however to be presently replaced by chill forebodings of eternal separation from love and loveliness, as he listened to the mellow song of the nightingale, and heard the whisper of the spring breezes that came freighted with flakes of plum bloom, and bearing babbling messages from the waterfall. Hidetsugu might assuredly have won a fair name under easier conditions, but fortune had been terribly against him. It is true that his own excesses furnished his enemies with an incentive and his ill-fate with an opportunity, but the treacherous snares set in his path might well have overthrown a firmer conscience. Before he had time to reason, the germ of evil had twined its roots round his volition.

As is often the case with men completely overmatched by fate, he failed at first to follow the processes of his own mind, but presently stirring, like one aroused from a trance, he looked up at the sky and saw a network of fleecy clouds in which the sunbeams were entangled. Then, for at such times the drifting senses often cling to the scantiest stay, he knew that the pure sunshine had faded for ever from his own life, and in the gloom crouched a spectre that appalled him, the spectre of treason. For a moment he sought with all his soul to banish the apparition, calling earnestly on faith and honour to hide it from his eyes, but its outlines grew rapidly more and more distinct, until he shuddered at the conviction that it had become an inseparable part of himself, and must thenceforth be the guide of his actions.

The two men had remained silent for some time, the one seeking to penetrate the thoughts that absorbed the other, when suddenly a swift shadow glanced across the paper slides. Kamon started visibly, and at once addressed the Minister.

“Your Excellency,” he said, “has seen the shadow of the passing bird* ; the visitor whose advent it portends is Sir Yukinaga. He comes authorized by the Regent to demand an explanation of your Excellency’s conduct, while Kumagaye has been sent to your monitors on a similar

* The Japanese believe that the shadow of a passing bird portends an arrival. F. B.

errand. And in truth my object in waiting on your Excellency to-day is to warn you of these visits, for though innocence is easy to defend, prejudice is a cruel judge, and you may find it more convenient to dispose a method of repelling these charges now, than at the moment they are preferred.”

Hidetsugu received the intelligence without any evidence of emotion.

“Kamon,” he said, “first let me thank you for the good will that has prompted your present action. Since the birth of the Regent’s son, I have had all these contingencies constantly in view, though I confess I did not think that Taiko would have sought to remove me until Hideyori had attained his majority. Many years must pass before the child is competent to assume the reins of government, and meantime I am the Regent’s adopted son, and have been raised by him to the high post of Prime Minister. It appears to me little to his credit that he should deem a few slanderous tales sufficient reason for my sudden overthrow, and for inviting the anarchy that would almost certainly ensue, after his own death, under the rule of a child.”

“Your Excellency perhaps forgets,” answered Kamon, “the influence of the Lady Yodo, whose constant aim is to secure her son’s succession before the Regent’s decease. Perhaps, too, the Regent himself feels that he dare not act leisurely, for the hearts of half the nobility belong to your Excellency. It seems to my humble judgment that your Excellency has only to declare your innocence, and afterwards establish it by a memorial bearing the names of your many friends. Even the Regent’s power has its limits, for it depends on the support of the nobility.”

Had Seta Kamon combined all the subtlety and penetration of many craftier men, he could not have conceived a more pernicious counsel; since it exactly suited the Minister’s mood; and he left the Palace of Pleasure persuaded that the seed he had sown would bear fruit very sweet to the man he served. Ishida, meanwhile, had deferred the departure of the officers charged with the conduct of the enquiry until Kamon’s return, when, furnished with all the information he required, he instructed Yukinaga to treat Hidetsugu with the utmost deference, and accept any excuse he might offer, however trivial; while on the other hand he directed Kumagaye to tell the Minister’s monitors that Taiko was highly incensed at their conduct, and attributed Hidetsugu’s excesses entirely to the weakness of their admonitions.

Ishida’s policy in all this had three aims: the first, to persuade Hidetsugu that he could command the good will of even the Regent’s chosen officers; the second, to elicit from him an insufficient explanation, evidencing contempt for the Regent’s rebuke; and the third, to excite his monitors to such sharp remonstrances, that Hidetsugu would resent their interference and thus compel them to appeal to Taiko. As for Yukinaga and Kumagaye, they received Ishida’s instructions in perfect good faith, recognising in him the mouth-piece of the Regent, which indeed he was at that time.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE QUESTION OF PROPERTY IN MONEY.

(From the ‘Hochi Shimbun.’)

WHAT construction do experts put upon the Notification No. 2 of the *Dajjokuan* (Council of State) dated the 19th January of this year?

Though we have carefully read it, we cannot understand its meaning clearly: so publish now the opinions of various debaters, in the hope to elicit the opinions of the learned, and at the same time to inform ourselves by considering their various statements.

The Notification ran as follows:—

“It is hereby notified, that any attempt to deface, or otherwise make unfit for circulation, the coins in current use, by either melting or defacing them, is strictly forbidden.”

With respect to this Notification, it is argued that, although the unavoidable cause for its issue is unknown, its appearance causes only doubt and disquietude in the minds of those who consider it.

If the Government increases the amount of money, its value will certainly come to be less than that of bullion. The mint weight, or value, of one Gold *yen* is 4 *fun*, 4 *rin* 3.67 *mo*, (or 25.8 grains Troy weight) and if bullion of that weight is worth more than one Gold *yen*, those who are in the possession of gold *yen* would find it more profitable to themselves to sell them as metal, breaking them up or melting them, than by using them as money.

Since the outbreak of the South-Western rebellion, the paper money in currency has increased, we hear, about 27,000,000 *yen*; besides which, there are bank notes in circulation to the amount of about 20,000,000 more. The increase in the amount of money being so great as this, and the value of coins consequently becoming less than that of the metal, we are induced to believe that the Notification originated in our statesmen fearing lest sweaters and clippers ('the piercing people'—in orig. trans.) should commence operations. If all processes of making the coin unfit for use are to be forbidden;—we ask:—'what about their export to foreign lands'—'their being lost, or buried in the ground,'—'their being melted in foreign countries?' These are pressing questions, to which we cannot in any way find words to reply. That coins should be made unfit for use does not seem to us to do any harm to the public; indeed we cannot as yet discover what harm there can be in it.

It is also argued that:—"if the practice originated from coins being abundant,—whether melted or not, such coins might be regarded as though they were lying idle in the Treasury vaults, without being in current use; and that the process of melting would certainly have no effect on the price of things in the market." On the other hand:—if the practice be caused by a rise in value of bullion, then we only see that it is profitable, and not harmful, to the public. Because we conjecture, that the fall in value of coins is caused by their being immense in amount; and, therefore, to turn them again into metal, by melting or breaking them up, lessens indeed the number of the coins, and therefore enables the coinage to regain its original value. That the *Economist* writing about money, should say that 'it possesses a quality to rise and fall in value of itself,' is in accordance with our argument above. This is the reason we entertain doubts about this Notification."

Others argue that:—"those who entertain doubts about the Notification, having no sufficient knowledge to understand it, may arrive at a satisfactory conclusion—by 'giving it up.'" But there is a point involved which greatly troubles us. This is lest the Notification may be considered as affecting the individual rights of the people. That Government should retain the exclusive right of coinage, and should not allow the people to interfere therewith, is advantageous to the public, and we have nothing but praise to give to the arrangement. But as soon as the coins have been brought into use, and have become the private property of the people; then Government should cease to interfere with them; for it has, until the coins return into its possession, no right in them, nor power to recoin or remelt them. Money is merchandize, and is the property of any man after he has worked for it. What distinction is there between money and other commodities? A man who possesses a piece of ground may either let it, or cultivate it, at his pleasure. A man who buys a piece of meat, may either roast it or boil it, as he prefers. And is there any reason why he may not do so with his money? So long as it does no harm to others, a man can do what he likes with his money, and cannot be said to have committed a crime. Such practices as melting or disfiguring coins can only be performed by rich men. As our countrymen are mostly poor, they may not feel the action of this Notification much, but we cannot but view it with alarm; should its action be an invasion of individual right."

As we cannot arrive at any clear opinion ourselves, to enable us to reply to those who argue thus; we therefore beg learned men in Japan to state their views on the subject. We shall feel extremely happy if they will read this article carefully, and give us a clear explanation which may dispel the doubts of disputants on the question; show us proofs that the Government have done right in issuing this Notification, and that it is a good plan; and then kindly place their explanation within our reach.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES A MEANS OF CHECKING IMPORTS.

(From the 'Hochi Shimban'.)

THE Foreign Import trade increases daily: and every thing, from vessels and carts, to clothing, tools, dishes and other miscellaneous articles—are being imported from foreign countries, while we, sitting quiet and doing nothing, wait only for the approach of poverty and ruin. Our financial affairs can hardly be in a more seriously difficult position than at present; can we not do something to resist this? Yes; but what are the means of doing so?

Imports may be divided into three classes:—1st those without which our requirements cannot be met;—such as machinery and books;—2nd, those which are in favour on account of difference of cost, such as muslins which, being cheaper than Japanese cotton cloths, are preferred to them;—and 3rd., those which have a good appearance. These are rather matters of luxury, and are of many kinds, and are admired not only for their beauty; but sometimes only because they are foreign.

These are the reasons why foreign imports are bought; and we may again classify them as imports very difficult to resist, and imports which should not be resisted. Now, putting aside those easy to resist (the luxuries. Ed. J. T.) and those which should not be resisted (the machinery and books. Ed. J. T.) our present urgent necessity is to resist those which it is difficult to oppose. (the competing cotton manufactures. Ed. J. T.)

This second kind is that which increases or decreases in demand according to difference of cost. If foreign goods are dear, ours are employed; if on the contrary, our goods are dear, a demand is created for theirs; the advantage and disadvantage of which can be easily understood. For instance: if the cost of a suit of foreign dress is 30 *yen*, while that of ours of equal quality is less than 29 *yen*, the latter would of course be taken. On the contrary, if the cost of one *tan* (a Japanese measure of cloth about 26 feet in length) if muslin be 40 *sen*, whilst that of our cotton cloth is more than 42 or 43 *sen*, the former will of course be taken. Therefore, this kind of imports would cease when the cost of our own goods shall become less than that of theirs.)

The imports which our patriotic countrymen are anxious to stop, are mostly of those luxuries of the third class, which seem to be of small amount. But we advancing another step, endeavour to resist the imports of the 2nd. class. The means of doing so are indeed difficult, and must be gradually adopted.

They are, that patriotic Japanese should form a Co-operative Store Company; should purchase all articles of dress and other miscellaneous goods required by the members of the Company, (goods only to be of Japanese make) and that the Company, under order of the members, should purchase these goods from the manufacturers in the several *ken* and (adding* the expenses of transit, house rent, wages of employees) should sell them to the members at the lowest possible price. (Interest on capital not included here.) And that they should at all times buy and sell for ready money, so as to reduce the sale price as much as possible.

The benefits derivable from this Company system are three:—obtaining goods at a low price; getting them of good quality; and avoiding the risk of selling on credit.

Ordinary trade is different from this. Business being done by selling on credit, or by partial payment between the wholesale and retail merchant; they are liable to ruin or loss; and unfaithful (fraudulent) merchants cannot get goods at a low price and of good quality. A Co-operative Company is not like this. The business being for ready money, to buy or not to buy is at the will of the buyer, and thus goods can be obtained the cheapest and best.

When goods are in manufacturers' hands a merchant called 'Tobi' runs about amongst the factories, and picking up goods at the lowest possible price, brings them to a merchant called 'Nakaqi' who collects them for the 'Togiya' (broker—*lit.* merchant who goes between) and the latter sends them to the wholesale merchant, who sells them to the retail merchant, and so finally they come to be displayed in shops. Going through this process, they incur

* The writer has 'deducting,' but of course this is a mere *lapsus calami*. Ed. J. T.

such frequent transit expenses, and the profits of so many persons, before they reach the hands of the buyer, that their cost gets increased by about 30 or 40 per cent. above their cost in manufacturers' hands. The Co-operative Company will not be like this:—as goods will be bought at their place of manufacture, the profits of so many persons, and all these expenses of transit will be saved.*

Again, in selling on credit, as is done in ordinary trade, an amount must be allotted for loss of interest on the money until payment is made; and also allowance must be made for the risk of the purchaser becoming bankrupt. This makes the cost greater. But as the business of the Company will be all in ready money, these enhancements of price will be avoided.

The cost of silk goods: such as *Hakatsuyori*, *Yukitsumugi*, and *Yonazawa-hachijo*, &c. (all Japanese silk piece goods) which have to be brought from distant places, are mostly increased by 40 or 50 per cent on arrival in Tokio. But if we buy them on the spot, and thereby decrease their cost by more than 30 per cent, we shall be able to stop the imports of the 2nd kind, which are now employed on account of their difference in cost. And even in respect to those goods which have to be brought from distant places by expensive transit; still, buying as wholesale merchants (straight from the manufacturers) great deduction would be made in cost by the Company.

The question of investing the Company's accumulated funds, and that of selling goods at the cheapest rate, being under different heads; we shall not here speak of the former.

The origin of this idea of a Co-operative Company appears to be the following:—In 1844 at Rochdale in England, the state of the flannel trade having become unfavourable, and the wages of the workmen having fallen greatly,—they, seeing their means of livelihood diminishing, and disliking the bad quality and high prices of the things they had to purchase daily; twenty-eight of them formed themselves into a Company and uniting the small wages they received for their labour, purchased a supply of tea and sugar from a wholesale merchant, and keeping them as a common store, got them as they wanted them at cost price; and from the profits of this arrangement, paid 8 per cent to the shareholders, 2½ per cent for their education, and the remainder to the purchasers, according to the amount of goods purchased. By so doing, they not only obtained good things at a low price, but also gained the means of storing an immense amount of money.

For the number of members and the amount of Capital increased year by year; they commenced several other kinds of business, and in 1869, the Company was so flourishing, that it did a business of more than £2,000,000 in one year. The rapidity of its success is indeed surprising, and most other trades—Engineering, farming, and several manufacturers began to adopt this system, and flourished excessively.

It is said that, now, nearly all the factories in the North of England are adopting this system. So we, taking it in hand, wish to use it as a help to enable us to stop the use of foreign goods. Will it really effect it?

LEATHERN BOOTS *versus* STRAW SHOES.

(From the 'Nichi Nichi Shimbun'.)

[A correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes to that paper on the 14th inst. in reply to the *Hochi Shimbun's* proposition to abandon leathern boots. We translate his letter. Ed: J. T.]

In an article of the *Hochi Shimbun* No. 1498, the subject of abandoning the use of leathern boots, and thereby curtailing unnecessary expense and diminishing foreign imports was argued. On the beauty of the composition, and correctness of the views expressed, I cannot venture to give an opinion. But the article speaks only of the disadvantages of leathern boots, and of the merits of straw shoes: and from what I have heard, the article is far from being complete or precise; in fact, the writer is like one, who, knowing the first step which should be

taken, is ignorant of the second. My reasons for thinking which I beg to lay before you.

In all things, harm exists amongst the good, and good amongst the harm; and we should not discuss the one, without considering the other. The advantages of leathern boots are, that not only have they a good appearance when generally worn, but that they prevent the feet from being hurt by striking against anything; and, in time of war, they set the mind of the wearer at rest when running about, over mountains or fields, as they prevent the feet being hurt by edged things &c. left thrown about by the enemy* and they are also very durable.

For these reasons, leathern boots are considered to be the best foot-coverings, either in peace or war, in all countries of Europe, whence we derived the use of leathern boots for our soldiers. Since that decision was taken, Messrs. Nishimura and Dan, have invested all their property in hiring foreign teachers, and have created a manufacture which has now grown to such magnitude that we no longer need to import leathern boots. All the materials employed are of our own production, except the leather for soles, for which imported elephant skin is used, as being cheaper than our own ox hide. And military men having now become accustomed to them, find no fault with them, either in barracks or on the parade ground during peace time; but, on the contrary, recognize several advantages in them. But in the beginning of the Southern War, most of the soldiers suffering from the friction of their boots upon their feet,—and finding straw shoes more convenient to run about in over hills and muddy paths,—it was decided to employ the latter for a time. This is the 'harm existing among the good.' Besides, abandoning leathern boots entirely, and employing only straw shoes, does not not serve to diminish a portion of the imports, as argued in the article. How can this possibly be the means of diminishing imports?

The disadvantages of straw shoes are:—not to speak of their odd appearance—that they allow the feet to be hurt in running about, and are very soon worn out. (I do not know if any other kind of foot-covering has been invented to take the place of the strong and durable leathern boot; but during the war of last year, shoes made of 'shuru' (bark of the Palm tree) and cotton proved no better than those of straw, for running about over steep hills and muddy roads.) In a day of battle, three or four pairs were necessary for one man, and even on an off-day, one or two pairs were required, and much time was therefore lost in distributing these to the soldiers, and in their putting them on.

Moreover, from what I have heard of the amount of expenditure, leathern boots, humpen leggings, and stockings, according to the existing regulations cost—for one soldier in time of peace, 5.90 yen per annum; and, if these be replaced by cotton stocking and leggings and *waraji* (straw shoes) and *uwazōri* (straw slippers) the cost would come to about 14.60 yen per annum, thus making a difference of about 8.70 yen, and if I multiply this amount by 40,000 the total number of soldiers in the country, an amount of about 348,000 yen results to be added to the grant now made for the purpose. Added to which, leathern boots are more convenient in time of peace.

In the case of foreign expeditions, the inconvenience of moving straw shoes is immeasurable. Suppose a force of 10,000 men was to be sent out, the straw shoes required by them for one month would be 6,000,000 pairs (taking three pairs a fighting day and one pair a rest day, supposing them to fight on alternate days, and thus 60 pairs per month would be required for each man.) These made up into 30,000 packages, at 200 pairs per package, would occupy three medium-sized vessels. And supposing these vessels either to be late of arrival, or to be wrecked by striking on an unforeseen rock, there would be no place in the invaded country where these shoes could be obtained, and as they require to be changed daily, there is no guarantee against its finally becoming necessary for the men to fight barefooted.

In our own country, they are obtainable wherever we go, or should we fail in getting them, they can easily be made. Also they are convenient in actual fighting. Therefore there is no objection to employing them in war in this country.

* This is all very fine, Mr. Ferguson; but what will 'Tobi' say? And how will the *Nakaguni* and *Toiya*, and your merchants, wholesale and retail, approve this beautiful arrangement for their ruin? Ed. J. T.

* This is a reasonable argument: as the Japanese have instruments, equivalent to our ancient 'calthrops' with which they strew the ground, and also thoroughly understand the art of 'staking' rough ground. Ed. J. T.

This is the 'good existing among the harm.' But the question of expense for replacing leathern boots by straw shoes being as above described, where can possibly be the 'curtailment of unnecessary expense' mentioned in the *Hochi Shimbun's* article?

I hear that it has been decided to retain leathern boots in use for time of peace; as while, not causing the least inconvenience in barracks, or out on drill, they have a better appearance, and their use curtails unnecessary expense. And that, in time of war, straw shoes shall be used, if the war is in this country, as then expenses may be specially incurred, and they are more convenient for actual fighting. And, in case of an expedition to a foreign country, something will be hereafter decided on, which will lessen as much as possible the trouble of conveyance, and will also be convenient for actual fighting. Should all this be actually decided on, there will be no more inconvenience, only advantages; and parties unconcerned need not argue any more on the subject.

So long as it does not prevent the practice of economy, and defeat be not hazarded, there should be no harm in having separate regulations, and different modes of dressing in times of peace or war, at home at abroad. From this I cannot but conclude that, though the simile of 'the body and its shadow' seems to be very good, yet the argument founded on it is one-sided (*orig. trans.* 'only on one end of a thing') and in fact that the writer is one who, knowing the first step to take, is ignorant of the second. And should my arguments above be found correct, I would say without hesitation, that it follows:—that there being a War Department and Military Officers for the administration of military affairs, we should silently watch what they do, and not risk being ridiculed for being obscure, by looking too far into the question.

THE PUBLIC APPEAR TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE ABUNDANCE OF PAPER-MONEY.

(From the 'Nichi Nichi Shimbun'.)

ALTHOUGH, beginning an argument with such a title, the public may believe us to be of those who recklessly jump at a conclusion, the statement is made from actual observation of an instance, and having several times pondered over it, we have finally been induced to our conclusion by the fall in interest of money and the rise in value of coins. We proceed to explain our views.

As,—though the laws of our country prohibit a difference being made between coin and paper-money; and, indeed, the publication of the current price of paper-money in the daily papers has been stopped, the efforts of nature cannot be resisted by laws made by men,—so there has not been a day for a number of years back, when differences between coin and paper-money have not existed.

We are actually informed that at present 100 Gold *yen* cost 16 *yen* more than 100 paper *yen*; information which does not appear to us unfounded, since a foreign merchant in Yokohama is said to have offered to pay a difference of 1,600 *yen* for 10,000 Gold *yen*. If this is really so, the rate of difference is 16 *per cent*.

In the 5th or 6th year of Meiji, the cost of coin and paper-money was equal, but since, on account of the amount of imports and exports being unequal, coin has gradually come to be exported, in consequence of which a difference of 3 or 4 *yen* was created between them (per 100 *yen*) which farther increased to 6 or 7 *yen*, and in the 8th and 9th years of Meiji, it came up to 7 or 8 *per cent*. Since last year the difference has become greater, and it must now be stated as having risen from 10 to 15 or 16 *per cent*.

As, however, trade in coin does not prevail in the interior, our merchants do not observe so great a change, and no serious circumstances have, up to the present time, occurred in our markets; but though, therefore, economists do not seem to take much notice of it, a difference of more than 10 *per cent* is not so small as that we should not be distressed at it.

The reasons for this difference of cost being chiefly the scarcity of coin in the market, on account of their export in great measure, and also their being hoarded in the treasuries of the rich; it may not appear to be on account of the increase of paper money. But it is in accordance with nature and reason that, if plentiful, it should lose in

value and, if scarce, it should gain. How much more would this be, if it is withdrawn from circulation by export and hoarding, while but a little is being made in its place: while paper money always remains in circulation, and is constantly being increased by fresh issues.

Therefore we have come to the conclusion that the abundance of paper money is one of the real causes of the considerable increase in the cost of coin.

If, however, it be said that the difference in cost of coin is not a sufficient cause of the suffering from the abundance of paper money; we shall proceed another step and prove it by the fall of interest.

Those who are interested in the business of lending and borrowing money in market places are doubtless aware, before reading this, what is the present state of the circulation of money among the public. Are not bankers, and all those whose profession is to lend money, suffering from the abundance of paper money in their hands, and are they not all searching for means of lending it? Though there are some who complain of the unfavourable state of the money market at present, in reality it is because such borrowers have not sufficient security to give, or have not sufficiently good credit. Any man with good security or good credit wishing to borrow, does not find it difficult to get it at 10 *per cent per annum* at present. If any proof of this be required, a good one is given in the ruling rates for Bonds. For instance, Pension Bonds are worth now from 110 to 115 *yen* and Security Bonds (those issued by Government in place of the Noble's debts, when Government took over the Noble's dominions) are worth now about 70 *yen*. Whereas two years ago the former were worth 80 to 90 *yen*, and the latter 60 to 65. This is simply because the holders of these bonds required more than 10 *per cent* interest the year before last, but are now satisfied with less than 8 *per cent*. The credit of the Government has nothing to do with the question.

Although these who form their opinion from the actual state of the market, may consider that the rise in value of these bonds has been caused by the establishment of so many National Banks, and also from the Bonds being a favourite security, and do not seem to think that the difference of interest of money has any concern with it; the real cause is the fall in interest, which is the result of excess of paper-money.

Since this time last year, the Government, in less than 12 months, by degrees increased the paper in circulation by 27,000,000 *yen*, the 15th National Bank issued 15,000,000 *yen* and other Banks have issued altogether 43,000,000 *yen*: which, being done all at once, the amount of paper in circulation is increased by about 50 *per cent*. Thus it is easy to see that the money now in circulation must be indeed great. And it is certainly not an error for us to conclude that the increase of paper-money is one of the real causes of the fall in interest.

EXTRACTS.

ARE WE CONSUMING OUR CAPITAL?

II.

(From the 'Economist'.)

CONTINUING this subject from our number of December 15, we commence with the obvious fact that whatever may have been the case during the last two or three years, it is quite evident that the balance of indebtedness, say, for fifteen or twenty years previously, cannot on an average of years have been really against this country. Had it been so, the country must have experienced the effects of such a state of things long since. So protracted a drain on our resources, had it existed, must have shown itself very clearly. If the country had imported more than it could have paid for in goods, the balance must have been paid either in the precious metals, or by exporting the securities of foreign countries which may be held here. With regard to the export of the precious metals, the amount exported must either have been drawn from the supply held by the Bank of England, or from the amount ordinarily circulating from hand to hand. The amount of coin circulating in the country must always be a matter of conjecture, but various estimates have been formed from time to time, and though they have differed from each other in some particulars, all have agreed in this, that they have represented the amount now circulating to be much larger than at any previous period. There is, at all events, at present, no sign of the pre-

try, and the very considerable outlay of capital in this direction, it may turn out that a good deal of this expenditure has been unproductive and ultimately unprofitable. These "improvements" in buildings do not always mean increased value; if there is no demand for them, unused and unusable buildings are about as undesirable investments as can be found.

We should not conclude our observations, if we are to attempt to form a balance-sheet, however rough, for the country as a whole, without taking into consideration other classes besides those whose condition we have been attempting to review. There are many persons in this country who neither carry on trades, nor are engaged in businesses, nor work for their livelihood in any way. This class of persons, those who live on the returns from their accumulated capital, is a very large one, and is now both much larger and much wealthier than it has been at any previous time. And we believe that these persons, as a class, in ordinary times, accumulate capital. They feel, as a rule, the necessity of living within their incomes, and their savings in the aggregate must form a very large sum. While the working-classes, and the merchant, and the trader, and the manufacturer have felt the pinch of the times, the accumulations of the moneyed classes may have gone a long way to make up for the losses which have been experienced in other directions.

One deduction, and that a very serious one, must be made from this. A very great loss, or what comes virtually to the same thing, a very great depreciation of property, has, no question, been experienced recently by many of those who, tempted by high rates of interest, have placed some of their money in securities which have either ceased to pay dividends, or have been sold during a time of great depreciation. To form an estimate of this loss is impossible, but taking into consideration the enormous amount of foreign securities held in this country, the aggregate depreciation must have assumed corresponding proportions. So far back as April, 1876,* the depreciation in three classes alone of foreign Securities, Turkish, Peruvian, and Egyptian, was estimated in the *Economist* as having been during the twelve-months previous no less than ninety millions, and there has been a very great drop in their value since that date. This loss was undoubtedly distributed over the holdings of a vast number of persons, and probably has affected only a portion of the income of most of them. It is also impossible to say how much of it may have extended to Great Britain, but it is quite possible that the loss this country may have experienced in this manner, and in other ways during the last three years, may have been sufficient to consume, at least, as much as may have been saved in other ways on an average during one year out of the three. In support of this statement, it is only needful for the reader to bear in mind how great the drop in value of investments in many industrial undertakings has recently been. To put it plainly, it is quite possible that the loss on foreign investments and in other ways during the last three years may have amounted to fully as large a sum as the savings of the country during one year.

As we mentioned before, the scale on which affairs are conducted in this country is so vast that any estimate must be necessarily incomplete. One instance, however, which we can quote from an official statement, will show how considerable a diminution in one branch of the resources of the country may take place without its being obvious, had not the evidence of the fact been before us. The *Agricultural Returns* show a diminution of more than 400,000 cattle and 2,000,000 sheep in Great Britain and Ireland since 1874. This diminution in the value of farming stock can hardly represent a value of less than twelve millions. The cultivated land in the United Kingdom in 1877 was estimated at 47 millions of acres. The value of the farming stock in the form of cattle had therefore dropped about five shillings an acre over the whole country in the course of four years. But if this fact had not been shown from the *Returns*, would any estimate have been likely to have been formed of the existence of so great a diminution in the value of the stock employed in one of the greatest industries in the country?

To enter into a more detailed statement is out of the power of any one; while there seems to us no proof that we are living out of our capital, it is yet obvious that accumulation does not go on in the country at the same rate as previously. So far as the increased importations, which have been so much discussed of late, have been paid for out of the capital set at liberty by the diversion of trade from one channel to another, we are not necessarily the worse off, if the imports have been employed in a manner which will be a source of future profit. So far we are accumulating stocks of manufactured goods in the country for future use, a source of future profit may be merely accumulating unsold, waiting till a demand may, as it doubtless will, in course of time, spring up. So far as our importations of articles of food enable us to

support a large population engaged in preparing stocks of manufactured articles drawn from materials found within our own boundaries, this supply of food is the stay also of an industry which may also be classed as productive. So long as the country is merely fetching back in one shape or another the capital which it formerly exported, no injury is done to its permanent prosperity. But further it cannot safely go. There are limits in time to the largest accumulated resources, and there are other considerations besides mere movements of capital to be thought of. There may have been, and there probably was, a considerable increase, in the days of our recent prosperity, in the unproductive expenditure of the country, and this must lead to its ultimate impoverishment. There is the difference in the modes of life started or developed during the recent years of too abundant sunshine to be borne in mind. There has been much waste of capital in various ways. It is always unpleasant for people, when less well off than they have been, to come down to a lower scale of expenditure; but come down they must, if they would avoid ruin. The prodigality indulged in among the working-classes during the time of high wages has been the theme of many a speech and many a statement. The reckless extravagance of those above them in station, who suddenly enriched, thought there was, as the old saying has it, "no bottom to the money-bag," the sums lavished on costly buildings, on splendid establishments, on luxuries of every description—all these have to be written off the account, as so much wasted capital. Yet the business heart of the nation is still thoroughly sound. The evidence is strong in favour of this. The Clearing-house returns, the Railway returns, the receipts of the Exchequer, all show that though the great wave of prosperity, which seemed as if it would bear everything so rapidly onwards with it a few years since, is stayed in its course, and has for the moment even receded, we may well hope to maintain our position by a timely economy. Retrenchment will undoubtedly have to be the order of the day, and when the cloud is removed, it is to be hoped that the lessons of the past will not be forgotten.

CHINESE NEW YEAR'S FESTIVITIES.

THE celebration of New Year's commences very early in the morning of the first day of the new year. Preparations relating to these festivities have all been made previously, a description of which will be found where the annual customs relating to the latter part of the twelfth month are described.

The festivities connected with New Year's, as observed generally in every respectable family, divide themselves into five parts—1. *The sacrifice to heaven and earth*; 2. *The worship of the gods and idols belonging to the family*; 3. *The worship of deceased ancestors*; 4. *Prostration before living parents and grandparents, etc.*; and, 5. *The making of New Year's calls.*

The sacrifice presented to heaven and earth, usually called "*presentation of rice on New Year's*," is the first thing done on New Year's morning, commencing oftentimes as early as four or five o'clock. The adults of many families do not retire to rest on the last night of the old year. The table spread with offerings to heaven and earth is usually placed in the front part of the principal reception hall. On it are put a bucket of boiled rice and five or ten bowls of different kinds of vegetables (no meats of any kind), ten cups of tea, ten cups of wine, two large red candles, and three sticks of common incense or one large stick of a fragrant kind. In the wooden vessel containing the rice are stuck two small branches of cedar or some flowers, and ten pairs of chopsticks here and there around on the surface. On the chopsticks are placed two large sheets of certain kinds of mock-money, one representing gold and one representing silver, only used on *New Year's rice*, and on the top of this is placed mock-money of another kind. On one of the chopsticks is suspended, by a red string, a copy of an almanac for the current year. A few of each of five kinds of dried fruit are scattered around under the mock-money on the surface of the rice. Near the centre of the table is always placed a plate or bowl full of the loose-skinned orange. When every thing is arranged, fire-crackers are exploded not far distant, often in the street in front of the house or at the door.

The head man of the family, all of the rest being present, now comes forward and kneels down in front of the table, and bows his head toward the ground three times, holding one or three sticks of lighted incense in his hands. On rising to his feet, he places the incense in the censer on the table. The same ceremony of kneeling, etc., is repeated the second or the third time in some families; in others, only one kneeling and three bowings are performed. In some families, the one who kneels and bows repeats, while on his knees, his thanks to heaven and earth for past protection and favors, a prayer that his family may be protected from sickness during the year now begun, and that it may be successful in business. This ceremony is designed to express the obligations of

* See *ECONOMIST* of April, 1876.

the family to heaven and earth, and their dependence upon them for protection, life, and success. At the conclusion, fire-crackers are exploded, and the common kinds of mock-money, which have been prepared for this occasion, are burned. The plate of oranges and the bucket of boiled rice are usually left undisturbed for a day or two.

By this time it is nearly or quite daybreak, and preparations are made to worship the family gods and goddesses. Several bowls of rice and plates of vegetables, vermicelli, and fruits, with three cups of tea and three cups of wine, are usually placed before them on a table: incense and candles are also lighted. Some families do not use the vegetables and the rice, while others do not employ tea or wine at this service. The head of the family kneels down before the images, and performs in very much the same manner as he did before "heaven and earth." At the proper time the mock-money is set on fire and consumed.

It now becomes the duty of the family to pay the customary tokens of respect and remembrance to its deceased ancestors, represented by the ancestral tablets. A quantity of things very much like those which have been paraded before the gods is put before the tablets. These are worshiped by kneeling, etc., in a similar manner.

The performances of another important ceremony now takes place. The surviving heads of the household father or mother, grandfather or grandmother, uncles or aunts—if present, must be worshiped by their descendants, the junior members of the family. The parties worshiped, or before whom prostrations are made, sit side by side in chairs, *if husband and wife. No incense is used.* Married sons and their wives, as well as unmarried children, kneel down before their seniors, bowing only thrice, and expressing their congratulations. Uncles and aunts almost always prefer to stand rather than sit while receiving the customary tokens of respect.

The adult male members of the family start forth to see their male friends or relatives, making New Year's calls, on this day, or they may delay such calls for one or two days, if they choose. Friends of equal rank and standing in society, on meeting, must bow to each other, shaking their own hands, each mutually congratulating the other. Relatives of lower social rank bow, or pretend to bow sometimes, one knee, on meeting their superiors. The higher never kneel to the lower. The husband must call on his wife's parents, if living within a reasonable distance, worshiping them and their ancestral tablets. Husband and wife do not mutually worship each other, being of the same social rank. Concubines living in the house must worship the husband and the wife by kneeling before them, and presenting their congratulations on the return of a new year.

The same Chinese term, "Pai," is applied to worshiping deceased ancestors and living parents; but there is this essential difference between the two ceremonies: in regard to the dead, incense, and candles, and mock-money, and sometimes offerings of food, are made; while in regard to the living, neither incense, nor candles, nor mock-money, nor offerings of food are ever made.

It is customary for all the honges, stores, and groceries to close during New Year's day, and for at least one or two subsequent days. Many of the larger stores and honges do not open for the transaction of business for five or six days, and some even do not commence business until the tenth, or even until after the fifteenth of the first month. Many of these will sell to accommodate friends, opening a side door, on the fourth or fifth day after New Year's. The longer a shop, or store, or hong is closed, the more respectable and reputable it seems to be regarded. It is asserted by middle-aged men that in their boyhood there used to be a much larger proportion of shops and groceries closed until the tenth and the fifteenth of the first month than nowadays. The tendency is now to open earlier and earlier every year. There is really very little of buying and selling done for the first ten or fifteen days after New Year's, except necessary articles of food or articles for urgent use. Large sales of goods are seldom effected during the first half of the first month among the Chinese. Between Chinese and foreigners such sales are sometimes made.

There seems to be a superstitious dread of spending money for the first three days, except for candies, sweetmeats, peanuts, and similar kinds of refreshments, buying and selling, as matters of business, being regarded as an inauspicious commencement of the year.

The first day of the new year is a day of great festivity and rejoicing among all classes. No unnecessary work is performed. Should it be necessary to hire a coolie or a workman to perform labor, he would expect two or three times as much pay as usual. Much gambling is performed in the streets, in gambling dens, and in private houses on the first few days of every new year. Gambling, which, according to law, is forbidden to be practiced at all, by the universal consent and connivance of mandarins and their underlings is permitted at New Year's. Almost every adul

Chinese knows how to gamble in various ways. Custom requires that every boy who calls on his neighbors or his relatives on New Year's day—or any time before the fifteenth of the month, as some assert—should receive a couple of loose-skinned oranges, or the lad would consider himself slighted, and treated shamefully and niggardly. The reason why this kind of orange is so popular at New Year's is, that the colloquial name for it, *ket*, is precisely the same as the term for "fortunate," "lucky," "auspicious." The presentation of these oranges is equivalent to the wish of an auspicious and lucky year; it is an omen of good. When a man recently married calls on the parents of his bride, or on any of his own family relatives or intimate friends, he must have two or four oranges of this species given to him, and a handful of watermelon seeds, put up in a red paper, for him to carry home when he departs. Adults, when calling at New Year's, must invariably be treated with hot tea to drink, good tobacco to smoke, and watermelon seeds to eat. As the local saying is, "*During the first part of the first month no one has an empty mouth.*"

From the first day to the fourth it is customary for the common boat-women and their children to go around from house to house, presenting their congratulations to the members of respectable families, and begging a present of cakes or food of any kind. They call out at the street door or knock on it, singing songs until they receive the cakes sought or until they become wearied. Many families make it a point to give to these boat-women. They do not seek out the poor on the occasion, but the poor seek out those who are willing to contribute a cake or two. They carry the cakes home and eat them at their leisure.

It is estimated that probably ninety out of a hundred families do not eat any meat on New Year's day: this is on account of their reverence for heaven and earth. The custom is sometimes called eating vegetables in honor of heaven and earth, and is regarded as an act of merit.

The New Year's festivities among the respectable classes of citizens last from the first to the fifteenth of the first month, and among the officers of government from the first to the twentieth, or rather from the twentieth of the twelfth month of the old year to the twentieth day of the first month of the new year. This month, among the mandarins, is given up to recreation and dissipation, feasting, visiting each other, and seeing theatrical exhibitions. Very little public business is done by them; only very pressing complaints receive attention. It is a season of relaxation and rest from the cares and responsibilities of office. Among the common citizens and gentry there is a great deal of mutual giving and receiving invitations to feasts. Bands of musicians and playactors are very busy during the first half of the first month. In mandarin establishments and in neighbourhood temples, there is a vast amount of theatricals performed in this interval.

Between the first and the fifteenth it is common for bands of music to call on respectable and wealthy families in the day-time, and, if their services are not promptly declined, commence playing. After playing three tunes they stop, and expect to receive a present of money. The amount given is voluntary and optional. These players come professedly to present their congratulations to the families they visit on the arrival of another new year. Sometimes wealthy householders specially invite a band of players to come to their houses and perform for the amusement of the females connected with their families. Their remuneration is much greater when formally invited than it is when they invite themselves.

During the first half of the month the festivities are frequently diversified and enlivened by fireworks in the evening. These are called *flowers*. The occasions when exhibitions of flowers in the evening are made are not few; for instance, sometimes, when offering thanksgivings before the images of gods and goddesses in their temples, in view of a happy event, or in the performance of a vow, or when a large family worship the ancestral tablets in their ancestral halls or in their private residences, or when the clerks and other underlings in mandarin offices have theatricals performed for the purpose of propitiating the god of riches, or when distinguished guests are invited to a feast in a wealthy family, the "*letting off of flowers*" is oftentimes attended with great show and expense. Some married women take occasion to visit some celebrated temple, dedicated to the goddess called "Mother," on the evening of the fifteenth of the first month, and have "flowers" let off at their expense in her honor, hoping that this goddess will aid them to have male children, in consequence of their thus worshiping her on her natal day.

From the eleventh to the fifteenth it is customary for bands of playactors, or idle people who are willing to engage in making amusement for others, to go around to the different mandarin establishments, the residences of the gentry and the rich, and places of public rendezvous, and *manoeuvre the dragon*. The per-

formers expect to be rewarded by those who permit them to play for their amusement on their premises or before their houses. If they happen to go where they are not wanted, a present much smaller than would be expected, were they permitted to play, will send them away in peace. Officers and rich people often give several dollars to a band, after having witnessed the dragon play for a part of an evening.

A ceremony performed in every heathen family at this place on the morning of the fourth day is called "offering rice for receiving the gods." It is the belief that the gods who ascended to heaven on the twenty-third or twenty-fourth of the twelfth month of the year just closed, to report to "the Pearly Emperor Supreme Ruler" in regard to the affairs under their supervision, all descend to earth again on the fourth day of the first month. The people prepare an entertainment for them as a kind of welcome, and in order to propitiate their goodwill during the year just commenced. This is called "receiving the gods." The kitchen god, the god of wealth, the god of joy, and other household gods, are supposed on this day to come down from heaven to begin their duties on the earth. Some say the spirits of deceased ancestors are also present this day in their former home. A bucket of boiled rice, with various things arranged upon it, very much like the offering to heaven and the earth on New Year's day, ten plates of vegetables, three cups of tea, three cups of wine, with incense and candles, are placed upon a table in the front part of the public room of the house. The head of the family kneels down on the floor, and bows three times before the table, which is understood to be an act of homage rendered to the gods who have already arrived on the premises, or who are momentarily expected. At the conclusion of the genuflections, mock-money is burned for their use. After waiting a short time, a plate having five kinds of fruit upon it is placed before each image worshiped in the family, with two candles and three sticks of incense, and also before the niche holding the ancestral tablets of the family. Some utter a kind of prayer before idols while bowed before them on this occasion, asking for wealth, male children, health, success in business or literary employments, etc. There is a proverb in common use to the effect that "when the rice used to receive the gods back again is eaten, then all kinds of work should be commenced." In fact, however, some have already commenced their usual employments, while others yet wait several days after the consumption of this rice before they begin. *Doolittle's 'Social Life of the Chinese.'*

THE JAPAN TIMES,

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Values and purchasing properties of ancient Japanese Coins.
Daimios' Assessments and Incomes.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A.
Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 8. The Tea Drinkers.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Property in Money. Co-operative Stores a means of checking Imports.
Boots versus Straw-shoes. 'The Public appear to be suffering
from the abundance of paper-money.'

EXTRACTS.

Are we consuming our Capital? No. 2. Chinese New Year Festival.

THE HOUSEKEEPER,

(being a list of prices current for provisions, in foreign shops and native markets.)

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, Advertisements.

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Editorial notes. Notes of the Week.

The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 7.

Notes and Queries.

Correspondence.

The Japanese Press.

Are we consuming our Capital?

Professions and Trade Directory. The Housekeeper, Mail Steamers Register
Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c

Bread	...	...	...	.08 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .18	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.19 to .30	"
Veal	"	"	...	.25	"
Pork	"	"	...	.12 to .16	"
Sausages	"	"	...	.30	"
Beef—Jap. Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .16	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.16 to .25	"
Veal	"	"	...	.20	"
Pork	"	"	...	.10	"
Sausages	"	"	...	.20	"
Oysters	...	...	...	.05 to .10	per 100
Eggs	...	...	...	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Chickens	...	...	...	.15 to .25	each.
Geese	...	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Wild geese	...	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Pigeons	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Turkeys	...	...	...	2.00 to 3.50	"
Hen Turkeys	...	...	...		"
Deer	...	...	...	.15	per lb.
Wild—boar	...	...	...	.12	"
Hares	...	...	...	.37 to .50	each.
Pheasants	...	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Quail	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Snipe	...	...	...	.06 to .08	"
Woodcock	...	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Wild ducks	...	...	...	.37 to .40	"
Bombay Onions	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	...	...	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	...	...	.12½	"
English Coal	...	...	...	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	...	...	...	8.50 to 10.00	"
Anthracite	...	...	...	15.00 to 17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	...	...	10.50 to 11.50	"

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes, sweet potatoes cabbage, small cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes, lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery, turnips & carrots.

PROFESSIONS AND TRADES DIRECTORY.

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J. Smedley,	32	Water Street

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T. Wallace,	26	Water Street

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C. S. Bland,	28	"
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J. J. Dare,	76	"
W. McDonald,	32	Water Street.
A. F. Negre,	80	Main Street.

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Exchange Market,	70	Main Street.	F. Vivanti,	75A	"
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Drs. Wheeler and Buckle,	75 and 99	Bluff.	Kilner and Handel,	72	Main Street.
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E. C. Kirby & Co.,	59	" "	Lane Crawford and Co.,	59	" "
Kilner and Handel,	72	" "	WATCH AND INSTRUMENT MAKERS &c.		
Lane, Crawford & Co.,	59	" "	C. and J. Favre Brandt,	175	Homura Rd.
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Culty Freres,	51	Main Street.	Van Lissa Bros.,	66	"
C. H. Geffney,	60	" "	POSTAL NOTICES.		
G. Hoebens,	157	"	List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial		
E. Perrin,	31	Water Street.	Japanese Post Office, January 15th, 1878 :-		
IRON MERCHANTS &c.			Armstrong, H. B.	Mendelson Bros.	
Annand and Co.,	55	"	Andrews, E.	Prestileff, B., Tokio	
T. Rose and Co.,	113	Creek.	Allin, H. N., Tokio, 2	Place, Edw., Register	
LIVERY STABLE-KEEPERS.			Burnes, John J.	pini, E	
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A. Jaffray,	123	Homura Rd.	Campbell, A. A.	Robertson, S.	
Pequignot & Co.,	137	Swamp.	Cartman, E., Tokio	Richards, Wm. H., 2	
MANILLA LOTTERY AGENT.			Carme, P.	Schneider, Dr. A. Tokio	
G. Goudreau & Co.,	166	"	Cheesman, F.	Shinagaya, R.	
MILLINERS &c.			Clark, W. S.	Saito, T.	
Mrs. Cook,	72	Main Street.	Camhefert, Emile.	Sekiya K., Tokio	
Mrs. Davis,	66	"	Churchill, Rev. H. A.	Schwaub, M.	
Mrs. Vincent,	85B	"	Day, T.	Smith, Mrs.	
Madame Giaretto,	45	Sido Street.	Degron, M. Refused	Schmidt, Edward	
NEWS AGENTS.			Edwards, Mrs.	Tailer, B.	
H. Cook,	72	Main Street.	Flood, Wm.	Theall, James	
Kelly & Co.,	28	"	Godfrey, J. G. H., Tokio, 4	Tobv, Miss, Tokio	
PASTRY COOKS.			Hanzen, E., Tokio	Taylor, Mrs.	
L. Poiteven,	53	"	Hall, Sam H.	Tarbell, Rev.	
Peyre Freres,	80	"	Hamill, G. D.	Trungia, Moses & Co.	
POST OFFICES.			Hoffman,	Thorel, H.	
British,	236	"	Hanzen, E., Tokio	Van Peth, M. F.	
French,	134	"	Hashimoto, M.	Walker, G. W., Tokio	
Japanese,	Honcho Dori.	"	Harling W. J., Tokio	Wychoff	
			Kluge, Theodore, Tokio	Wylie, A. H.	
			Kelaimbi & Son.	Wilson, North & Co.	
			Myacila	Watt W.	
			Marie, Mrs. A., Tokio	Yona, Kitchio	
			SHIPS.		
			Barque "Ariola"	S. S. "Patro"	
				Ship "Sunner R. Mead."	
				I. T. FARR,	
				Acting Superintendent.	
			Imperial Japanese Post Office,		
			Yokohama, 1878.		

List of unclaimed letters &c. remaining at the British
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Anderson Rolf.
Blundell A. W.
Ellis, Arthur, C.
Haluraba Adolf Revd.
Holburn, Robert.
Kuki, Riuchi (Regd. Letter)
Madge, William, Capt.
Sutherland, Daniel.

Schneider, A., Dr.
Stopford, W. E.
Todd, George.
Trunja, Moses & Co.
Watt, W.
Waters, J. M.
Walker, G. W.

MERCHANT VESSELS.

"Abercarne"
"August"
"Christine"
"Ceylon"
"Fair Leader"
"Grenada"
"H. G. Wappans"
"Julia A. Brown"
"Kedar"

Post Office, Yokohama,
15th, February, 1878.

"Laura E. Burtham"
"Loyal Sam"
"Ladoga"
"Midnight"
"Mars"
"Orange Grove"
"S. R. Mead"
"Sir Lancelot"
"William Manson"

F. G. MACHADO,
Post Master.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

DOWN TRAINS.

Miles.	STATIONS.													FARES.		
		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	...	...	...
3½	Shinagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	...	25	10
6	Omori	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	...	40	30
10½	Kawasaki	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	...	55	30
12½	Tsurumi	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	...	70	40
16½	Kanagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	...	85	50
18	Yokohama	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	...	1 00	60

UP TRAINS.

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen	sen	yen	sen	yen	sen.
—	Yokohama	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	...	...	...	...	...	...
1½	Kanagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	...	15	...	10	...	5
5½	Tsurumi	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	...	30	...	20	...	10
7½	Kawasaki	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	...	45	...	30	...	15
12	Omori	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	..	60	...	40	...	20
14½	Shinagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	...	75	...	50	...	25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	...	1 00	...	60	...	30

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 1878.

IMPORTS:—We have almost to repeat, without change, what we wrote last week. *Kinsatsu* continuing to fall in value, the market generally has been dull, and for such goods as are saleable, the demand has been moderate. The speculative demand for COTTON YARNS which characterized last month's business has entirely ceased; and most staple COTTON GOODS are dull, only small sales being effected at fractionally lower quotations. WOOLLENS remain unchanged at nominal quotations, with nothing doing.

EXPORTS:—SILK. During the past week, very little business has been done in our principle export staple; the extremely menacing character of political telegrams appear to have fairly frightened most buyers, and of the 600 Japanese bales which we mentioned in our last report as being in foreign godowns, under inspection, only about 240 remain. In addition to the above-mentioned cause of depression, good hanks are now becoming extremely scarce; and really high-class Nos. 1 and 2. are unobtainable; while, in order to obtain a small parcel of silk of fairly good and even quality, a comparatively large lot must generally be inspected and sorted. Prices remain unaltered, and we leave our quotations as they stood last week. But native pretensions are to-day firmer, which, considering the fall in native currency, is a proof that they take a more hopeful view than ourselves of the European political situation.

The stock in Yokohama is about 2500 native bales. Shipments by the English mail of the 19th inst. totalled 184 bales.

TEA.—Our season may now be considered as closed, the few small transactions which may take place prior to first arrivals of the 'New Crop' affording no real market test. Settlements for the week amount to only 250 piculs and arrivals are quite nominal, stocks in first hands are also much in the same state.

EXCHANGE:—The bulk of private paper for the week was done at 3s. 11½d., early in that period; but the news from America of the Senate having passed the Silver bill apparently had effect on this market; for, in spite of the extremely limited character of business in the Silk and Tea markets, rates of Exchange have risen to our quotations. There has been scarcely any demand for Bank paper, and until to-day's transactions, 3.11½d. was the best obtainable rate.

Only the usual small business has been done on Hongkong and Shanghai.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 4s. Od., sight 3s. 11½d. Credits, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 4.95., sight 4.85. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.06. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 72½. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight ½% disc. Private, 10 days' sight 1% disc. San Francisco Bank Bills, sight 98½. New York Bank, sight 92½. BULLION. Gold Yen 389, Kinsatsu 432.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.
(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
*March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *City of Tokio*, P.M.S.S. due 28th February.

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March. 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Alaska*, P.M.S.S. sailing 28th February.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	" 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	" 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 23

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	Mar. 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

* The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

* No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

* Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

* Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THENCE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THENCE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Feb. 18	Feb. 26		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Mar. 2	Mar. 10	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Jan. 18	Mar. 9		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 5	Apr. 23	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	Jan. 11	" 3		M. M. Co.'s -	London	Feb. 26	Apr. 15	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 7			P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 28		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Jan. 19			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco			

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Feb. 16	Vladnick	Novosilsky	Rus'n M. of W.	1,068	Nagasaki			
" 16	Tori	Kamminga	Dutch sch'ner	299	Guam		Sandal wood	Captain.
" 17	Oscar Vidal	Willis	Brit. barq.	1,480	Shanghai		Kerosine	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 17	Sacramento	Nelson	Am. ship	1,320	N'castle N. S. W.	Dec. 20	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 19	Suminoye Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	1,700	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 19	Glenorchy	Hogg	Brit. str.	597	London		General	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 19	Toyoshima Maru	Hubbard	Jap. str.	2,119	Kobe	Feb. 17	General	M. B. Co.
" 21	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	1,350	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 13	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 21	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,400	Kobe	Feb. 19	General	M. B. Co.
" 21	Augusta	Hasenpflug	Ger. corvette	1,704	Samoa Islands	Jan. 20		
" 22	Sunda	Reeves	Brit. str.		Hongkong	Jan. 14	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai and ports.—Mr. and Mrs. Mouchet and 4 children, Sir J. Campbell Brown, Messrs. E. C. Kirby, J. J. Dare, Kempermann, A. C. Sim, Atkinson, Shields, Norton, and 8 Japanese in cabin; and 361 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—Mr. J. Collins; and six Chinese on deck. From Southampton:—Mr. Wn. Bill.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S.S. "Caldera," Dec. 10; S.S. "Perim," Dec. 18.
FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Bertha Marion," July 30; "Fair Leader," September 25; "Sumner R. Mead," October 26; "Laura," November 21.
FROM NEWPORT:—"Aureola," Sept. 19.
FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2.
FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 28; "August," Oct. 16.
FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"O. & O. "Belgie," January 19. P. M. S. S. Feb. 7.
FROM ANTWERP:—"Hotspur," August 25.
FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)
FROM SINGAPORE:—"Sir Conyngham," Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.
FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Glenroy," S.S. "Glamis Castle." "Laurel," "Flying Spur."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. March 9th; Hongkong M. M. str. March 3rd; America O. & O. str. Feb. Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. str. Feb. 28th.

CARGOES:—Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$139,086.00.

REPORTS:—The American ship *Ladoga* reports:—Sailed from New York on the 24th of September: had moderate weather throughout; came East, experienced very bad weather on the coast of Japan. Arrived at Yokohama Feb. 18th, 146 days out.

The American ship *Sacramento* reports:—Leaving Newcastle, N.S.W., on the 20th of December: got pilot off Cape Segami: arrived on the 16th February, all well, 56 days out. On the night of Feb. 12th the pilot-cutter *Jane* was laying hove to off Cape Segami to take her owner, Pilot Christian, from the British steamer *Lorne*, which was expected down that night. A Japanese junk ran into the pilot-boat, and carried away the gaff, tore the mainmast, besides doing sundry damage. The boat went to harbour at Misaki, and repaired damages, which were paid for by the owners of the junk.

The German corvette *Augusta* reports:—Left Samoa Islands on 20th January. Had moderate weather throughout. Was under sail till within three days of port.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DISPATCHED BY.
Feb. 16	Alice Mary	Rogers	Brit. barq.	360	Kobe		Ballast	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 16	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,240	Kobe	Feb. 20	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 19	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	" 26	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 19	Cairnsmuir	Spewart	Brit. str.	1,123	Kobe	" 21	General	H. Ahrens & Co.
" 19	Hammonia	Weller	Ger. str.	408	Amoy		Rice	Chinese.
" 20	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,145	Shanghai & ports	" 28	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 21	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Kagoshima		General	M. B. Co.
" 21	Hattie N. Bangs	Bangs	Am. barq.	587	Hakodate		Ballast	Captain.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Mrs. Willcox and 2 children, Messrs. Livermore, Chipman, Plummer, and J. Brown.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Minami, C. E. Simpson, Godai, Arimura, Arikawa, Hayashi, Yamano, Watanabe, Nino, Nakazawa, Sakai, Konoike, Kawachi, Takehashi, Miyazaki, and F. P. Smith.

LOADING:—*Messenger*, for New York, quick despatch.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Volga, for Hongkong and Europe, February 19th.—M. M. Co.

Alaska, for San Francisco, February 28th.—P. M. Co.

Tokio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, March 2nd.—M. B. Co.

Suminoye Maru, for Hakodate, February 8th.—M. B. Co.

Tsuruga Maru, for Kobe, February 23rd.—M. B. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. March 5th: for Hongkong M. M. str. February 26th: for America P. M. str. February 28th: for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. str. March 2nd: for Kobe, M. B. str. *Tsuruga Maru*, Feb. 23rd: for Hakodate, M. B. str. *Suminoye Maru* Feb. 24th.

CARGOES:—Per *Malacca*, for Hongkong: For London, 110 bales of silk; for France, 74 bales silk.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Laid up.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Repairing.
Glenorchy	Hogg	British steamer	1,700	London	Feb. 19	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steamer	1,879	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 7	M. B. Co.	
Horai Maru	Frank	Japanese steamer	600	Yokkaichi	Jan. 17	M. B. Co.	
Kiushiu Maru	Hay	Japanese steamer	690	Hakodate	Feb. 6	M. B. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	1,320	Hakodate	Feb. 17	M. B. Co.	Hakodate.
Sunda	Reeves	British steamer	1,704	Hongkong	Feb. 22	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Feb. 14	M. M. Co.	
Tokio Maru	Swain	Japanese steamer	2,119	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 21	M. B. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Toyoshima Maru	Hubbard	Japanese steamer	597	Kobe	Feb. 19	M. B. Co.	
Volga	Bolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	Feb. 5	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Wakandoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,350	Kobe	Feb. 21	M. B. Co.	Kobe.
SAILING SHIPS.							
Auriga	Messer	British barque	650	Cardiff	Jan. 18	Ed. Fischer & Co.	Europe.
Coriolanus	Cawse	British steamer	1,045	Nagasaki	Jan. 24	Captain.	For freight ch'ter.
Hudson	Vaughan	American barque		New York	Jan. 23	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands.	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Messenger	Gilkey	American ship	1,027	Hakodate	Dec. 15	Smith, Baker & Co.	New York.
Oscar Vidal	Willis	British barque	299	Shanghai	Feb. 17	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Otago	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
S. R. Bearse	Oakes	Am. barque	607	Philadelphia	Feb. 2	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Sacramento	Nelson	American ship	1,480	Newca'le N.S.W.	Feb. 17	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Tori	Kamminga	Dutch schooner		Guam	Feb. 16	Captain.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Alert	4	541	Sloop	Commander R. Boyd
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1405	Corvette	Captain Buller, C.B.
FRENCH—Cosmao	10	1400	Corvette	Captain Hesselnpfing
GERMAN—Augusta	12	1900	Corvette	Captain Dumas Vense
RUSSIAN—Boyan		2000	Corvette	Captain Boyle
„ Haydamak	8	1100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff
„ Vsadnick	8	1069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 9.]

March 2, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

THE OPIUM CASE.

THERE is no doubt that the Tariff requires revision respecting the importation of opium. The case of *Regina versus Hartley*, which takes up so much of our space to-day, would seem to prove that the Japanese Government recognizes the fact; that while aware of the noxious effects of opium-smoking, and determined to protect its subjects from the vice; it is fully alive, at the same time, to the value of the drug as a medicine and anxious that it should be imported under proper regulations. It is impossible to believe that this prosecution was instituted with any hope of getting a verdict; nor can we agree with the defendant that *animus* against him individually instigated the proceedings. The motives lie far deeper, as is generally the case when Oriental diplomacy takes overt action. One may be an honest fear lest opium-smoking should really increase, now that the Chinese population is increasing, and that it has passed from under native jurisdiction to that of a Chinese Minister and Consul. In the Government Notification of September 1870, the use of the drug for smoking was strictly prohibited to Chinese, as well as Japanese; and now that the former can no longer be reached by Japanese law, it may very well be, that the intention of the Government, in prosecuting an English importer, was to notify to the Chinese authorities that there was still another method of preventing their countrymen obtaining their favourite poison. If such was their purpose, they have gained a victory in their apparent defeat; for the validity of the prohibition of opium for smoking is brought out into the strongest prominence by the British Court's decision that the intent of the Treaties was not to exclude it as a medicinal drug. It is quite possible that the Chinese Minister and Consul are opium-smokers themselves, and might be presumed to have a certain fellow-feeling for culprits accused of importing it; in which case the action taken by the Government will carry fuller weight.

And we think we can descry another motive, lying deeper still. As we shall presently show, the evidence, arguments, and judgment in this case, are all wrong on two points:—the relative narcotic values of Indian and Turkish opium; and the impossibility or difficulty of converting the *Opium officinale* of the British Pharmacopœia into smoking opium. And it will result, we venture to predict, from the discussion necessitated on this item of the Tariff, that the only practical way of enabling the Japanese Custom House to discriminate between the two will be, to give them the power to demand from the importer satisfactory proof that he imports it, either for his own use as a medicine, in which case he must be a medical practitioner or a druggist; or that he imports it by direct order from some customer who is either one or the other;—in which case he must give up the name of his customer, and so enable the Government to follow the drug to its destination. And, in either case, the Government would

get at least a fragmentary jurisdiction over foreign residents.

We are so entirely on the side of the Government in their wish to secure their first object—complete control of the opium traffic, and surety against their people being inoculated with an additional vice; that we are quite content that the Foreign Powers should give up so much of the protective extra-territorial clause, as will assist the full attainment of a desire so reasonable; but enough has been done in this direction at present, and we trust that Mr. Hartley will not be put to the inconvenience of defending a second action,—a second verdict in his favour not being likely to strengthen the Government's hands, while it will only cause an innocent man needless annoyance, for which he does not get even the poor compensation of costs. We pass to our criticism on the case itself.

We have noted two errors in the evidence; errors which necessarily led astray counsel and judge. The first is with respect to the various percentages of morphia contained in various kinds of opium. The evidence stated that Smyrna opium contained ten *per cent.* of this principle, and Indian opium only four; stress was laid on the point in argument, and in his judgment, Mr. Wilkinson stated that Indian opium contained only one-fifth of the quantity in Turkish. The second mistake is with respect to the possibility of preparing Turkey opium for smoking, which was represented to be difficult.

Now, we find it stated in 'Squires' Compendium,' a standard work in all dispensaries, that the amount of morphia in Smyrna opium is from six to eight *per cent.*; and in 'Normandy's Hand-Book of Chemical Analysis,' edited by Dr. Noad F.R.S. Lecturer on Chemistry at St. George's Hospital—which is a work of great authority, we find a careful analysis of the drug, in which the three sorts of Turkey opium are distinguished; and Smyrna, the best, is stated to contain 6.9 *per cent.* of morphia. The United States Dispensatory, another work of authority, says: 'Opium should yield at least seven *per cent.* of morphia,' and this may probably be taken as the average strength of the Smyrna drug. Now, on the other hand, Indian opium differs quite as much as Turkish; and the evidence given, that Patna, Benares and Malwa opium are all known as Bengal opium, and that they all differ very largely from Smyrna in their percentage of morphia, was altogether incorrect. Bengal opium is grown by Government on the Eastern side of India and sold on Government account; while Malwa is grown by natives on the West side, and pays a tax to Government. The result is that Bengal opium is a comparatively staple product and of uniform character—and is taken by the purchaser without examination on the Government warrant; whereas Malwa opium is variable in character and has always to undergo examination. With regard to the percentage of morphia in the Indian drug; it is true that it is less than

that contained in the best Turkish, but the difference is not great, if the best Indian be used for the comparison; and, as a matter of fact, opium has been grown in India under favourable conditions, which was fully as rich in morphia as the Smyrna product.

The fact is simply this—the preparation from the Smyrna drug has been constituted the *opium officinale* of our pharmacopœia, because in the first place it had secured its position long before any opium was got from India; but mainly because it is more stable and uniform in its character, is less adulterated, and, consequently, more easily reduced into the form available for dispensing chemists, who must have a drug of constant quality.

Touching the second point; the opium of the chemist is necessarily dried or 'dissicated,' to remove the unknown quantity of water which is one of the most uncertain factors in his calculation. Dessication simply drives off water, and in fact, when the Chinese opium-smoker boils his opium down to a thick treacley substance, and subsequently takes a piece of it on the opium needle as big as a pea, and puts it into his pipe—he has to 'dessicate' this, by drawing the flame of a lamp through it, until it is sufficiently dessicated to give off its morphia under the effect of the heat. It is evident, therefore, that nothing is easier than to damp the dessicated opium of the chemist into the consistency required by the opium-smoker.

Of course, these two points would make strongly against the defendant, did the Treaties distinguish between medicinal and smoking opium, and had the charge against him been for attempting to import the latter, a prohibited article. For no demonstration is needed that the meaning of the Treaties was to exclude smoking opium; and as it must have occurred to their compilers that opium for medicine must of necessity be admitted, it is equally clear that they contemplated the admission of medicinal opium under the general head of medicines. But the charge against him was for 'smuggling or attempting to smuggle prohibited goods, to wit 20 lbs. of opium' and of course the evidence going to show that he imported it as a medicine, which is not a prohibited article, the charge could not be sustained.

There were several side issues, with some of which we do not think it expedient at present to deal, and others which were of small importance. The defendant laid himself open to severe animadversion from the counsel for the prosecution, and to milder rebukes from the judge, by attempting to strengthen a strong case by supplementary untenable arguments. He adduced them in good faith, but had he been represented by counsel learned in the law, such defects would not have marred a defence which, otherwise, was most creditable. Laymen who conduct their own cases are apt to forget the maxim '*ignorantia legis neminem excusat*,' and that a professional *entente cordiale* incites bar and bench to take full advantage of the axiom to worry any suitor who presumes to plead his own cause.

Mr. Wilkinson's judgment was, as usual, painstaking and exhaustive; and evidencing, as it does, minute and industrious research, and covering many points of international difficulty, besides that immediately before him, will hereafter be of considerable value as a reference. As we have shown, the Japanese Government has as much reason to be satisfied with the verdict as the defendant. We are perfectly happy to have got quit of it, and so, in all probability, are our readers; and the case therefore stands in the almost unique position of leaving all parties to it content.

THE NEW RACE CLUB.

THE motto which we quoted the other day for the benefit of Japanese statesmen:—'*humani nihil a me alienum puto*,'—must of necessity guide the conduct of any

journal which expects to live by the aid of subscriptions; and a Society such as the Yokohama Jockey Club, numbering, as we were told on Tuesday, a hundred and thirty members, after having been in existence but a few weeks, and before it had even formulated its constitution, deserves more notice to be taken of its 'Transactions' than a short paragraph, or a 'Note of the Week' For the sake of record, we have printed its Code of Laws in other columns, and propose now to consider them in detail.

The '*raison d'être*' of the Yokohama Jockey Club appears to have been the conviction that the existence of two Race Clubs in so small a community as this was an absurdity; increasing unduly the number of holidays and deteriorating the quality of the sport. The Yokohama Race Club and the Yokohama Racing Association being, therefore, both on the point of dissolution, a Meeting of gentlemen willing to support the combined Society took place on the 29th of December, at the International Hotel, and was very largely attended. A committee of eleven, representatives of both the old Clubs, was appointed to manage the affairs of the new one for 1878, and, as their first work, to draw up a Code of Laws. The result of their deliberations lies before us, in forty-seven rules, and the power they have of making by-laws provides for any petty details omitted. Their Code bears evidence of much care, thought, and labour; the leading principles sought to be established for the control and good governance of Racing in Yokohama are well and clearly defined; the rules are intelligibly grouped, and distinctly worded, and only on one or two points are they open to discussion. As, furthermore, the new Club inherits the combined cash balance of the two defuncts, amounting to about \$2,100; has already a hundred and thirty members, whose half-yearly payments in advance will swell this amount to \$2,750; two half-won cups, of \$200 each, and a considerable sum *in prospectu*, from entrance fees, gate money, and minor sources; it will be seen that its financial condition is most flourishing.

The first group of Rules, Nos. 1 to 8, give its constitution to the Club, and state its objects; define the qualification for membership, fix the subscription, and provide for the holding of ordinary and extraordinary Meetings. The Club is open for membership to the whole Foreign Community, and to Japanese at the discretion of the Committee; and the subscription is limited to the small sum of \$10, payable half-yearly in advance. These are liberal and wise regulations. Racing is, above all other sports, that to which is applicable the proverb—'*the more the merrier*.' The periods during which the actual contests take place are very short, and occur at considerable intervals of time, and—especially where, as here, there is little betting, these intervals would become tedious, unless enlivened by the humours of a crowd. The admission of all classes to the privilege of entering and riding ponies, cannot fail to result in larger fields and better racing, and we have no doubt, either, that a marked improvement will be seen in the course of a few years, in the breed of native horses; the supposed chief end and aim of the sport. Touching the amount of subscription,—as it is but the cost of a ticket to the Stand and enclosure, it is clearly an advantage to all to pay it at the beginning of the half-year, instead of in the middle, securing the advantages of full membership; while the advantage to the Committee is that with a certain, instead of uncertain, amount of gate-money in their hands, they have at least one fixed sum to guide them in their calculations of expenditure.

Rules 9 to 18 define most of the powers of the Committee. They elect their own officers, fill up vacancies in their body during their term of office, may frame and enforce by-laws for the management of the Race Course, may exclude from the Course all persons misbehaving themselves, whether members or not, suspend from membership, or expel from the Club,—and, at their discretion,

restore to his privileges,—any member guilty of 'default, fraud, malpractice, or improper riding in any race;' determine the dates of the Meetings, and postpone them when necessary. Additional powers are given to them in the other groups of rules, over salaried riders and for the decision of disputes; and, generally, a discretionary power so large as to closely resemble despotism. This is as it should be, and we trust that they will not shrink from the responsibility of using their power firmly, and without fear or favour. It is not an easy thing to rule a race course to which all classes and all nationalities are admitted, or a Race Club whose members enter it without ballot. Nothing will do it but swift and severe punishment of offenders, and as the existing Committee is a fairly representative body, it is sure of support for its decisions; and of extension, even, of its powers, should they be found insufficient to cover all cases. Abusing the Committee in the newspapers ought to be constituted an offence.

The third group of Rules, Nos. 19 to 28, relate to the horses, their description and nomenclature; how they are to be entered, and the weights which they are to carry; but as these are all taken without change from the old rules, they require no comment, save on one point. 'Half-bred' ponies, the progeny of a few Arab or Barbary sires, (imported some years ago), out of Japanese mares, are, under the new rules, admitted as 'Japan' ponies. With one or two exceptions, we believe that such half-bred ponies as foreigners have been able to buy have proved comparative failures as race-horses; but we are given to understand that all the ponies from His Imperial Majesty's stable, which ran so well at the last meeting of the late Association, had the strain of Arab blood. Should these half-breeds be found, in course of time, to be practically superior, all round, to the pure Nambu breed, of course they will gradually push the native animal out of the market; but such decisive superiority has not yet been by any means proved, and the Committee have obviated the possible occurrence of many disputes by the step they have taken.

Under Rules 29 to 39 come the regulations for riders and owners, &c. Most of these, too, are importations from the old codes; but Nos. 30, 38, and 39 seem to call for particular notice. The first reads:—

"No owner of a pony engaged in any Race shall be permitted to ride for another independent stable in the same Race;"

and at the meeting which was held on Tuesday an attempt was made to expunge it. It certainly bears hardly on a 'gentleman-rider'—or we should perhaps write 'on a rider who is a gentleman.' He may be riding throughout the meeting for a particular stable, and yet, owning a single pony himself, wish to enter him for two or three races. This rule compels him, either to ride his own horse, or, putting a friend up—to keep, himself, altogether out of the race. In neither case can he ride for the great stable. This is unfortunate, but we must support the Rule; laws of this sort are not made to direct honest men, but to checkmate rogues, and on any Race course in the world are always to be found men capable of 'pulling' the animal they are riding, to benefit another in which they have an interest. The only possible thing for a rider so situated to do, is to stipulate, when engaging to ride for a stable, that in races where he wishes to ride his own pony, the stable must find another jockey. As in fact and practice, all the large stables must have more than one jockey, this arrangement will always be possible.

Rules 38 and 39 relate to the governance of salaried riders and bettoes; the former being very useful in protecting pony owners against mutiny in the stable, and the latter giving to the Committee the necessary control over salaried riders or grooms. But this Rule, and Nos. 2 and 16 seem to conflict, as was pointed out by a member at the

meeting on Tuesday. We think the contradiction which appears at first sight will be seen to vanish on examination. Rule 2 confers membership on any person who chooses to pay \$5, but membership does not confer the right of breaking a rule. On the contrary, it pledges the member to obey the whole code. If therefore, a groom or paid professional rider chooses to join the Club, he may; but he will do it, knowing that one rule, No. 16, debars him from entering a pony, and from riding in any race except in one of the four to be designated by the Committee; and another, No. 39, renders him liable to a fine if he misconduct himself. Generally, as a member, he has a member's privileges;—specially, as a professional rider or groom, he has to suffer disqualifications. There is no injustice or cause for complaint in this.

The remainder of the Code calls for no special remark, and the whole sporting world of Yokohama owes a debt of gratitude to the eleven gentlemen who have given so much time and thought to its construction and arrangement.

For ourselves, we have but two faults to find with it. No cognizance is taken of lotteries, and no attempt is made to stop the practice of owners scratching their ponies for their own pecuniary benefit. Rule 28 is a most feeble step in this direction. But this subject is a large one, and much may be said on both sides of the question: we shall take some other opportunity of stating our own views, which require for their development more space than we have, to-day, at our disposal.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

BY no means without interest, in connection with the important subject of Forestry, to which we recently devoted a considerable portion of our space, are the facts of which we have lately received information from Hong-kong. In that Colony, where they have been tree-planting on a small scale for many years, and with marked advantage in improved climate and water supply, we now hear that it has just been decided to plant at the rate of a million trees *per annum*. So that, ten years hence, the bare, untitled hillsides of the island will be covered with young plantations which, properly conserved, will yield a steady revenue to the Colonial government, besides improving the soil and water supply, enhancing the beauty of the island and improving its climate. We all know that the town of Victoria was built,—as regards the health and comfort of its inhabitants,—on the wrong side of the hill. During the hot season, no benefit is derived from the refreshing S.W. breeze which blows so freshly and steadily on the other side of the isle, that at Stanley one almost requires a blanket to one's bed. Whereas, in Victoria, the fierce sun, beating all day on the bare hill, warms it to such an extent, that the heat, radiating throughout the night, prevents the thermometer falling more than a degree or two, and in the heavy stifling atmosphere, sleep either altogether forsakes the pillow, or is fitful and unrefreshing. Hence come lassitude, exhaustion, resort to stimulants, preparation of the body for ready reception of the seeds of disease—with their ulterior consequences. Whereas, were Victoria Peak clothed to its summit with wood, like some hills, familiar to us all, in this neighbourhood or that of Kobé, the sun's rays would be fended off the surface of the rock and this radiation of heat at night would not take place, with all its contingent discomfort, danger, and disaster.

If Mr. Pope Hennessey associates his name with the afforestation of Victoria Peak, he will deserve a niche in history among the benefactors of mankind.

WHY should not 'afforestation' become a fashionable amusement? When a party of ladies and gentlemen go out, now, to spend an autumn day in the open air, they leave under the trees only empty champagne bottles and picked chicken bones; and the only record of the day is a less or more-badly grouped and executed photograph. Why should they not take with them a few fir cones, or other tree-seeds,—even a bundle of young saplings—

which might all, with great advantage, be supplied, *gratis*, by the new Department of Woods and Forests, which we hope soon to see organized—and then, after tiffin, plant them, as judiciously as they could. An excellent, and quite classical precedent may be adduced, in support of our idea. Old Admiral Collingwood (Nelson's Collingwood) never went out for a walk without a pocket-full of acorns, which he used to plant in likely looking spots, mindful of the possible future requirements of England's 'wooden walls.' We might do equally good service to Japan's agriculture and climate. A few simple directions respecting soil, and aspect, and position, suitable to each species of tree, would have to be supplied with the seeds; and then, if ten per cent of them survived, the expense to the Department would be repaid a thousand-fold. And how pleasant, in the next generation, for some '*matre pulchra filia pulchrior*' to point to some clump of acacia or some stately group of cedars, and be able to say 'Ask Mamma' when her cavalier wondered who planted them in so appropriate a spot. Native papers, please copy.

AS we have already taken occasion to state, the *Japan Times* aspires to be a Review, rather than a newspaper; and current events, unless in exceptional cases, have therefore no detailed record in its columns. As was explained in the first number, the imperfect sketches of the prominent points in the seven days' history, to be found in the 'Notes of the Week,' are not intended to compete with the daily newspapers, which do the needful work efficiently enough. Indeed, it is their success in this particular, which permits the writer of 'Notes of the Week' to be reckless of criticism and careless in his sins of omission. Of what possible interest to the readers of a weekly paper can be page after page of reprinted paragraphs from the daily papers, which have been daily read, and just so far forgotten as to make it irritating to have to read half through them again, before one finds out that they have been read before?

For these reasons, the proceedings in the local Law Courts will receive, as a general rule, only the slightest mention in these columns; and mere police cases will not be reported at all. But all such suits as are of commercial importance we shall record in the way of which we give an example, to-day, in the case of '*Regina versus Hartley*.' Only professional readers, probably, can appreciate the labour bestowed on work of this description, or appraise the completed work at its proper value: to laymen, we must explain that,—though the examination and cross-examination of witnesses is purposely omitted,—the material points, to sustain or destroy which the evidence was brought, are stated in a summarized form, or are referred to in the arguments on both sides, or in the decision of the judge. And, in the same way; though the judgment is not given in full; quotations, for instance, being occasionally referred to, instead of reprinted,—and its arguments occasionally condensed;—yet no point of it bearing on the cause is omitted, and for all purposes of record and future reference, the Report of the case is virtually complete.

In fine, the case is treated exactly as cases are treated at home by the legal reporters; and we submit it to legal and commercial readers here and in China, in the hope that their approval and appreciation of the work will justify our perseverance in it. Should we receive such encouragement, we purpose to devote four or five pages of the last number in each month to Reports of this nature; and we hope to be able to make arrangements in Shanghai which will enable us to treat cases brought before the Court there in the same way; and so provide commercial readers here and in Europe, interested in the China and Japan trade, with a readily accessible and satisfactory record of legal proceedings affecting their interests.

WE place on record, in lieu of an extract from a home newspaper or elsewhere, the Rules of the Yokohama Jockey Club, which were adopted at the meeting in the Gaiety Theatre on the 26th inst. Without pretensions to being a Japan 'Bell' or 'Field,' the meetings of the Club, which give us two such agreeable holidays in Spring and Autumn, will be duly recorded by us, as coming fairly under the head of 'exceptional' events of the week mentioned above. In the old days, the *Japan Times* enjoyed an exceptional privilege in receiving its race reports from a gentleman formerly on the editorial staff of *Bell's Life*. 'Greyhound' took his mantle with him, unfortunately, and no successor has appeared in the columns of our local press. We can

hardly hope that our reports, now, will have the value they had in his time, but we shall give something that will serve at all events for record and future reference.

LAST week we gave as 'padding,' an extract from 'Doolittle's Social Life of the Chinese,'—describing the festivities of the China New Year. We have since been favoured with some extracts from a private letter, giving an animated description of the Feast of Lanterns at Canton, which will be found just after our 'Notes of the Week.' It has of course no pretension to accuracy of detail or research being merely the impression received by one of those peripatetic pilgrims of pleasure who now go to and fro upon the earth, it necessarily gives but a lightly-drawn sketch of what is apparent on the surface: it affects to do nothing more.

WE have to thank the proprietor of the *Japan Herald* newspaper for a specimen of the 'Annual Directory for Tokio, Kobe, Osaka, Hakodate, Nagasaki and Niigata,' published at his office. Not aspiring to be more than a list of names and addresses, it fills that office perfectly well. It is exceedingly well printed and very accurate; and the introduction of the Japanese characters for the numbers of houses is of use to letter-writers, whose chits are the less likely to go astray if their bearers can read at least so much of the addresses. Having so recently reviewed another work of this character,—that which reached us earlier in the year, we have left ourselves nothing to say regarding this publication beyond recommending it as a conveniently arranged list of names and addresses, which should be on every writing table. Accompanying it is a map, which we strongly advise all visitors to Yokohama, and even many residents, to pin up on their walls and carefully contemplate, especially when going to dine at a house where they have never been before. The numbering of the houses in the settlement has a guiding principle, not excessively departed from; and, besides, the *jinrikisha* men are quite familiar with them. But in no more annoying way is the absence of sensible municipal government evidenced than in the numbering of the houses on the Bluff, which follow not in their order of position, but in their order of sale. The result of this arrangement is that No. 201 is a full mile from No. 203 (there is no 202, so far as we can make out) No. 228 is a small piece cut out of No. 65, and Nos. 234 to 239 are embedded in a cluster of eighties and nineties. All which is disquieting to a guest, in thin patent-leather boots, on a wet night, five minutes late for dinner, and with a *jinrikisha* man who has just commenced business.

THE 'JAPAN TIMES' LAW REPORTS. No. I.

IN H. B. M.'s COURT AT KANAGAWA.

Before H. S. WILKINSON, Esq., *Acting Law Secretary*.

REG. (on the prosn. of the Imperial Customs)

versus
JOHN HARTLEY.

1878

Jan. 4th, 10th, 11th, 22nd, 30th, 31st. } THE defendant was charged on summons, under para. 8, Regulation II. appended to the Treaty of 1858* between Great Britain and Japan, and by virtue of Section 84 of the Order in Council for the government of British subjects in China and Japan, 1865†; for that 'he did, on the 14th Dec. 1877, smuggle, or attempt to smuggle, prohibited goods, to wit, 20 lbs. of opium, or thereabouts, in to the Port of Yokohama.'

It was shown by the evidence adduced by the prosecution and the defendant respectively, that on the 13th December 1877, the defendant applied to the Custom

* "The importation of opium being prohibited, any British vessel coming to Japan for the purposes of trade, and having more than three cattie weight of opium on board, the surplus quantity may be seized and destroyed by the Japanese authorities; and any person or persons smuggling, or attempting to smuggle, opium, shall be liable to a fine of fifteen dollars for each catty of opium so smuggled or attempted to be smuggled."

† "If any British subject * * * in Japan violates or fails to observe any stipulation of any Treaty between Her Majesty, Her heirs or successors, and the Mikado of Japan for the time being in force, in respect of the violation whereof any penalty is stipulated for in the Treaty, he shall be deemed guilty of an offence against the Treaty, and on conviction thereof under this Order shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding the penalty stipulated for in the Treaty."

House at Kanagawa for a permit to land a case of drugs, and he tendered duty thereon; the form of application for the permit was filled in by the defendant, or his clerks, and the contents of the said case were described as 'scurvy grass and cochineal'; on examination by the searchers, the case was found to contain, in addition to scurvy-grass and cochineal, two tins, each containing 10 lbs. of powdered opium. Neither the tins containing the opium, nor the packages containing the scurvy grass and cochineal bore any distinctive label. The defendant was asked by the legal adviser to the Customs, to explain the presence of the opium in the case. The defendant then replied:—"Well, I wish to pass that opium as cochineal." The present charge was thereupon brought.

The practice of passing merchandize through the Custom House, is for the importer to forward an application for permit in writing, stating the nature of the goods and the amount of duty payable thereon; this form of application is accompanied by the invoice. The form is presented at desk No. 1 and is there noted and stamped; thence it is passed on to desk No. 4, the officer at which procures a translation thereof, then examines the form and compares it with the invoice; the goods are then examined, and, if necessary, valued by Customs' appraisers. In this case the invoice contained no notice of opium, but several invoices were put in by defendant, which contained opium, and which had been passed by the Custom House; but it was pointed out that, in some of these, although the form of application mentioned opium, in the translation of the form this was omitted. It was also shown that, from time to time, opium had been passed through the Custom House by special order from the Japanese Government. Part of this had been for Government use; but much opium admitted into the country under special order, and under the invoices before mentioned, was for use of foreigners.

It was further shown that opium is a narcotic of great value as a medicine, and an absolutely necessary ingredient in the preparation of many prescriptions. It can be taken into the human system by inhaling, eating, or drinking; for smoking it must be in the form of a thickened liquid like molasses. Smyrna opium, which alone is recognized by the British *pharmacopæia*, is in the form of a dessicated gum or powder; in that form it is unfitted for the purpose of smoking; it can, but with great difficulty, be converted into a form for smoking. The value of opium as a drug depends upon the quantity of *morphia*, Smyrna opium contains not less than 10 per cent. Indian opium, which is chiefly used for smoking, contains only 4 per cent. The use of opium as a drug is practised by Japanese doctors, and permitted by the Government; opium is grown in Japan, but is very inferior, and almost valueless; and there is not enough grown for medicinal purposes. The terms of the Treaties with Japan were referred to, but these are sufficiently set forth in the judgment. In the judgment, too, will be found further evidence and arguments brought forward.

Hartley (the defendant) contended on these facts, that the prohibition against import of opium, contained in the Treaty, applied only to smoking opium. That he had traded in Japan for 11 years, and during part of that time had imported medicinal opium without difficulty, until he made a claim against the Japanese Government, for loss occasioned by seizure of some gum opium. Since that time he had met with obstruction on the part of Custom House authorities. That opium had been admitted under the names of '*aplum*' and of '*extract of papaver*.' This case should be dismissed on the ground that the Government had, for a long time before the opening of the ports to foreign trade, admitted the import of opium.

Lowder (legal adviser to the Customs) for the prosecution:—

The importation of Opium is prohibited by the Treaty; the same prohibition is contained in the Treaties made by Japan with other nations. There is no distinction known to the medical profession between 'medicinal' opium and smoking opium; and, even if there were, it does not follow that all powdered opium is good for medicine, or that this particular opium is good for medicine. There is no proof of its quality. Again, if it had been the intention of the Government to draw a distinction, and exclude only Indian, or smoking opium, nothing would have been easier than for them to have said so. But the term used is a compre-

hensive term; it includes opium of every kind. Treaties must be construed on the same principles as contracts are. Where the terms are general and comprehensive, they must be taken to include all species which come within the definition. Moreover, if 'medicinal' opium be admitted, the Treaties would be rendered contradictory in terms, and nugatory in effect; for it may be said that 'all opium is a medicine,' for all opium contains medicinal properties; but it is also a poison. There is a provision in the Treaty against the importation of opium: the defendant, by attempting to introduce opium secretly, has violated that Regulation, and has defied the legislature. The Court under the circumstances, has but one course to adopt—to inflict the full penalty provided for the offence.

JUDGMENT.

Wednesday, February 20th.

The judgment of the Court was delivered this day by H. S. Wilkinson, Esq.:

After reading the charge, and the Regulations and Sections of the Treaties and Order in Council under which the charge was brought, and after stating the facts as found, his Honour proceeded;—

"That there is a distinction between smoking opium and medicinal opium has been clearly established, and it was finally admitted in the fullest manner by the Counsel for the prosecution. I am satisfied moreover upon the evidence that the opium which is the subject of the present charge is medicinal opium.

"The only point, therefore, to be decided is, whether the regulation which speaks of opium without any express qualification was intended to apply to medicinal opium. In deciding this question, an important element of consideration is the nature of the distinction which it is admitted existed between smoking opium and medicinal opium. The evidence shows that the distinction is one both of form and substance. In one thing they agree: they are both the juice of poppy, the *papaver somniferum*. In form, medicinal opium is a dessicated gum or powder; smoking opium is of the consistency of molasses. In substance, there is a difference in the proportions of their component parts. Medicinal opium contains a comparatively large proportion of *morphia*; and this is the principle which renders it valuable as a medicine. Smoking opium contains only about one-fifth of the quantity of *morphia* contained in medicinal opium; and on that account alone would be of scarcely any use as a medicine. As to the use of medicinal opium for smoking, we have the evidence of Mr. North that Smyrna opium, which is the only recognised medicinal opium, is never used for smoking purposes, but that he certainly believes it is possible to prepare it for smoking; he does not know the way in which it could be done, but he could easily find it out.

"It was assumed throughout that opium smoking is an evil, and a great evil, which having happily no hold over the people of Japan, it is desirable to avert from them, even if stringent measures should be necessary for that purpose; and it was admitted that the object of the regulation is to avert that evil. As to medicinal opium, on the other hand, the evidence shows it to be an inestimable blessing to suffering humanity. It is unnecessary to go into this evidence at length, as it is recognized in a notification of the Japanese Government as an indispensable medicine; and Mr. Lowder informs us on behalf of the Japanese Government, that Government still recognizes it as such. But, not only is it indispensable, the evidence shows that, in order to obtain it in sufficient quantity, it is necessary to import it. This also is admitted, and Mr. Lowder informs us that he is instructed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to state that he intends drawing up rules under which medicinal opium may be imported. I think these facts are sufficient to raise the most serious doubts as to whether the Treaty could possibly have been intended to prohibit the importation of medicinal opium. I am of opinion that it could not. I think such an interpretation would lead to an absurdity, as that term is understood by writers on international law. Vattel lays down this rule on the subject (Bk. II., Ch. XVIII., sec. 231):—(his Honour then read the passage referred to).

"Now it is not always easy to determine whether a thing is or is not so contrary to reason that it cannot be attributed to a man in his right senses. But in this case I

think there is not much difficulty. The evidence shows that the consequences which would follow a strict observance of such a prohibition would be a great increase in the sufferings of the sick and wounded, and a great increase in the number of preventable deaths. Now these are consequences which it cannot be presumed any man in his senses intended to happen, unless under the direst necessity. Now is there any necessity approaching in adequacy to that which would justify such a result? It is scarcely necessary to say that there is not. There is an evil similar to that which this Regulation was intended to avert occupying the attention of philanthropists at home. Drunkenness is not less baneful in its effects than opium smoking, and those who are endeavouring to suppress it in the United Kingdom are certainly not open to the charge of lukewarmness in the cause. Many of them are prepared to submit to great restrictions themselves, and to impose restrictions on their neighbours in order to suppress it, yet, I am not aware that the most enthusiastic, or even it may be the most fanatical of them, would go the length of denying the use of alcoholic drink, where they were assured that it was necessary to relieve the sufferings of the sick, not to say to save the dying from death. Many of them perhaps would deny its efficacy, but in the case of medicinal opium the efficacy is admitted. If there were therefore no more evidence than that afforded by the nature and use of the two sorts of opium, I should be very slow indeed to come to any decision which recognised an intention on the part of the framers of the Treaty to include medicinal opium in the opium prohibited to be imported. To justify me in imputing that intention to them I think there ought to be more unequivocal evidence of it than the paragraph itself affords. Is there then such evidence? There is nothing in the Treaty itself to clear up the ambiguity; and there is nothing in the only other agreement on the subject *between the same parties*, in the Tariff Convention of 1866, which read by itself, or read with the treaty, apart from extrinsic evidences, serves to throw much light upon the subject. Subsequent to the Tariff Convention, the subject of the interpretation of the Regulation has been under the consideration of H. M. Minister and of the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs; but the evidence shows that no agreement on the subject has been arrived at. We can therefore get no assistance from the discussion. If a definite agreement as to the interpretation of the Regulation had been arrived at between the two Governments, we should have been bound by that, at any rate as to all acts done subsequent to the agreement. As it is, the views held on the one side or the other during the discussion are excluded from consideration.

"We have therefore to see what was the state of circumstances with reference to which the Treaty was made. We have no direct evidence of the state of affairs at the time or immediately before the Treaty was signed. But evidence has been given from which an inference may be drawn.

"Three notifications of the Japanese Government have been put in for the defence. The first is dated the intercalary fourth month (about June) of 1868, the second, April, 1870, and the last on the 3rd of September 1870. This last notification is accompanied by an instruction from the Foreign Office of the same date. The first is headed "The strict prohibition of smoking opium" and it says:—

"Whereas opium for smoking is an article which destroys the animal vigour, and shortens life, its importation by Foreigners has already been strictly prohibited by Treaty. Of late however it has been heard that it has been secretly introduced on board vessels, and as it would cause great injury to the people, should it spread throughout the Empire, both its purchase and sale and its use for smoking are forbidden."

"It then threatens punishment for disobedience. The second, after reciting that punishment proportionate to their crimes had of late been dealt out to Japanese purchasing smoking opium from Chinese residents at the ports, and to the Chinese selling the same, and that stringent measures had become necessary, it strictly prohibits the practice of opium smoking by Chinese at the ports. In the third appears the first mention of medicinal opium. It recites and re-enacts the previous prohibition against smoking opium, and then goes on to say:—

"Even crude opium for medicinal purposes may not be dealt with at pleasure, and the enclosed rules for its management have been enacted, and the government of each place will take strict measures that they be not departed from by the people under their several jurisdictions."

Then follow three Rules:—The first provides for the examination and registration of the crude opium in the several druggists' shops. The second provides that when "crude opium indispensable for medicinal use" is bought or sold the chemist, is to send in a report to the government office. The third is as follows:—

"When opium for medicinal use becomes insufficient, and it is desired to import it from foreign countries, upon a representation being made to the open ports by the local authorities, steps are to be taken to procure it by a special order."

The word here translated "order" means an order for goods. The instruction from the Foreign Office is in these words:—

"Whereas smoking opium was previously strictly prohibited, the law regarding the sale of smoking opium having now been re-enacted, its strict prohibition to all Chinese also resident at the ports is communicated. Let therefore strict measures be taken to prevent secret transactions."

No law of the Japanese Government earlier than 1868 has been put in. But a great deal of evidence has been given to show that up till 1872, medicinal opium had in fact been freely imported, and had been sold without concealment.

"We have the evidence of Mr. Miller, who entered the service of the Customs as appraiser in 1872, that medicinal opium was occasionally imported on the payment of five per cent duty: that he does not recollect any special injunction issued by the Superintendent, but he knows that the importation of medicinal opium had been discussed from time to time, and he believes that it was stopped after numerous discussions. We have the evidence of Mr. Takeoka that he has acted as examiner of drugs at the Custom House for nine years, and during the first five years of his service he often saw medicinal opium at the Custom House and appraised it. And, we have the evidence of the defendant's late servant, Matsumura, that opium so appraised was formerly passed through the Custom House without difficulty. Then another servant of the defendant, Nagasawa, stated that after 1871, when he entered the defendant's service, he had orders for medicinal opium from the Government Hospital at Tokio and fulfilled them. We have then the evidence of Mr. North, that when he came to Japan eleven years ago, he found medicinal opium in the stock of the Yokohama Dispensary; and that from that time until about 1873, he imported it as medicine along with other medicines, and sold it openly and freely to Japanese. We have the evidence of Dr. De Jong that, in 1864, he imported opium for his own dispensary. And then, leading us still further back, we have the evidence of Dr. Otsuki, that he went to Nagasaki in the autumn of 1859, a few months after the port was opened under the Treaties, and there studied medicine under a Dutch physician, Dr. Baudoin; that Dr. Baudoin procured opium for the use of the Hospital from Holland; that there was also opium in the market. He produces a book which had at that time, and had before that, a great sale at Nagasaki, and in which the advantages of opium are set forth. He states that, from twenty years ago until about ten years ago, foreign opium was the only opium asked for by the foreign school of Japanese doctors.

"We have here, then, evidence of what the law of Japan was in regard to opium between 1868 and 1870, and we have evidence going to show that what it was in 1868 it had been for the nine years before that; and this evidence takes us back until within a few months after the first port was opened under the Treaty, and leads to the belief that the state of affairs which then existed had existed for some time before. Upon this latter evidence being given, I intimated to Mr. Lowder that, believing as I did that the Japanese Government in a case like the present could not wish otherwise than to have the case decided upon the fullest statement of the facts, I considered it desirable that evidence should be given on his part of the circumstances which existed at the time the Treaty was made, and the practice under the Treaty up till the time when the first package of medicinal opium was seized at the Custom House. With the exception of the production of the Treaties made between Japan and the other Foreign Powers, the evidence sought for was not produced. I am quite satisfied that it was from no desire to conceal the facts, as Mr. Lowder expressed himself ready to admit all the facts of which he had been able to ascertain the truth. He has given an explanation of the cause which led to the

insertion in the Treaties of the provisions concerning opium. It appears that some Chinese at Nagasaki induced two Japanese women to smoke opium, and so injurious were the effects upon their system that they died in consequence. This occurring just about the time the Treaty with Holland of 1857 came to be made, the Japanese Government, justly alarmed at the consequences which might follow if the freedom which was for the first time being given to foreign trade should be extended to the importation of opium, determined to make provision against such a contingency. In the Dutch Treaty accordingly the importation of opium in Japan was provided against in these words. "The importation of opium into Japan is prohibited."

"No other law was made at the time, but in each successive Treaty a provision was inserted for the same purpose, varying more or less from that made in the Dutch Treaty. Mr. Lowder further explains that no express law was then necessary, as, until the ports were opened, the trade at the factory at Nagasaki was completely under the control of the Japanese Government. I need scarcely say that there is nothing in this explanation to alter the conclusion to which a consideration of the evidence put in for the defence would lead us. And, after a careful consideration of the Treaties themselves, I am of opinion that they point to no other conclusion. I have been pressed with the wording of the provision in the Regulations appended to the United States Treaty of 1858.

"The second of those Regulations says: 'The importation of opium being prohibited, if any person or persons shall smuggle or attempt to smuggle *any* opium, he . . . Now the insertion of the word 'any' does not seem to me to alter the case. Without that word the expression is general, and in the absence of explanation would include all opium. But where facts are admissible to show that "opium" meant a particular sort of opium, the same facts would show that "any opium" means any of that sort of opium. On the other hand the Russian Treaty of 1858 contains this provision: 'If Russians are found guilty of opium trading in Japan they shall in addition to the foregoing confiscation be punished with the payment of a penalty of 20 roubles per catty, according to Russian laws, which laws are strongly opposed to this injurious trade.' A similar provision had been inserted in the Russian Treaty of 1857 signed eight days after the Dutch Treaty. It is as follows:—'In case Russian vessels shall import opium into Japan, their cargoes will be confiscated, and the guilty shall be dealt with according to the Russian laws, strictly forbidding that pernicious trade.' We have no evidence of what the opium is, the trade in which is here designated as "injurious" and "pernicious," but there is a strong presumption that the selling of a medicine so valuable as medicinal opium is, could scarcely be called "injurious" or "pernicious." As a rule, in the interpretation of a Treaty between two powers, the Treaties made between one of those powers and other powers are not admissible in evidence. They may be referred to in certain circumstances and for certain purposes. But, coming to the conclusion to which I have come, I have not thought it necessary to inquire too curiously whether the requisite conditions are to be found in the present case.

"This being the only evidence adduced by the prosecution to meet the evidence given for the defence, the question now arises, what conclusion are we to arrive at. It has been urged for the prosecution that medicinal opium and official opium are the same, and that, as the great criterion between official opium and opium which does not properly answer that description is the presence of a certain proportion of morphia, it could not have been intended to admit medicinal opium, as that would have involved the keeping of an analyst at each Custom House. Without going into the question whether medicinal opium and official opium are convertible terms, it is sufficient to refer to the evidence that has been given, to raise an inference that the importation of medicinal was not prohibited, especially as there was no attempt at concealment on the part of the importer.

"It has been suggested that the Notifications issued by the Japanese, to which reference has been made, are probably not all the laws of Japan upon the subject. But if there are other laws differing from these, and pointing to another conclusion, I think it lay on the prosecution to put them in evidence. The same remark applies to an inference

which I have been asked to make, that opium was not for sale at Nagasaki in 1859, because Dr. Bardoin got the opium he required from Holland. The evidence of the witness goes to show almost conclusively that it was for sale, and, after that being shown, if it was really not sale, or if its sale was unlawful, it lay, it appears to me, on the prosecution to show it. I have already said that I am satisfied that there was no desire to keep back evidence. But I think the result must be the same. I think that, under the circumstances of this case, the defendant having shown, as I think he has shown, a *prima facie* case that, while the importation of smoking opium was, the importation of medicinal opium was not, prohibited in Japan prior to 1872, it falls upon the prosecution to bring evidence to rebut the presumption which the evidence for defence raises. I think this case comes exactly under the rule laid down by Sir W. Scott in the case of the "*Santa Cruz* (1 Rob. 50)" and I cite his decision because it is the decision of a Court administering international law.

"The conclusion, then, to which I come from a consideration of the evidence is, that medicinal opium is not included in the prohibition contained in the Regulation.

Some arguments not yet noticed were urged against that conclusion; which, his Honour said, though not sustainable, it might be desirable to consider. The first is; evidence is not admissible to explain the terms of the Treaty; and, after considering at length the several authorities among the writers on international law that have been cited, he said that, without doubt this was a case which required interpretation, that evidence might and ought to be adduced, to explain the ambiguity or obscurity of the Clause. That such evidence was admissible on the part of the defendant, as the words of the Treaty must be taken to express the meaning of both parties, the rule laid down by Vattel "that if he who "could, and ought to have, explained himself fully and "clearly, has not done it, it is the worse for him: he cannot be allowed to introduce subsequent restrictions which "he has not expressed;" cannot be upheld; for to make this maxim apply at all, it must be shown that the power and duty of making the expression clear, lay with Great Britain and with Great Britain alone.

Another argument used was founded on the rule laid down by Vattel (Bk. II., Ch. XVII., sec. 298) that:— "When the things which constitute the reason of a law or "convention are considered not as actually existing, but "simply as possible, or in other words, when the fear of an "event is the reason of a law or a promise, no other cases "can be excepted from it than those in which it can be "proved to demonstration that the event is really im- "possible;" and the explanation which immediately follows, that: "The bare possibility of the event is sufficient to "preclude all exceptions." It has been urged that, as there is at least a bare possibility of medicinal opium being used for smoking, and the smoking of opium being the possible evil contemplated, any construction of the treaty which excludes medicinal opium is totally inadmissible. This rule his Honour showed was taken from Grotius (Bk. II. c 16. sec. 22.) and, after fully stating and considering the arguments used by Grotius, in his treatment of the subject, he held that the rule would not bear the interpretation sought to be put upon it, for it will be seen that, instead of this rule being intended as a prohibition against the use of restrictive interpretation in any case; it amounts simply to this, that when you know certainly the reason of a law or treaty, you are, in interpreting the treaty, to exclude from it every case which does not fall within that reason, but you are to remember that every case in which the evil, the prevention of which was the reason of the law or treaty, may possibly happen, does fall within that reason, is not to be excluded as not falling within it. To justify the exclusion on the ground of the reason of the law or treaty, the evil contemplated must be an evil which in that particular case cannot possibly happen. But it is not intended to exclude restrictive interpretation on other grounds. That the evil which a treaty is intended to provide against may happen in any particular case, may be an element in considering whether it was not intended to be included in the terms of the treaty, but it is not the only element of consideration. The possibility of medicinal opium being used for smoking, if there was nothing else known about it, would be a good ground for holding that it was intended to be included in the prohibition in

the Treaty; but in the other circumstances concerning it, which are known, we find considerations for holding that it was not intended to be included, which, said his Honour "in my opinion, far outweigh the considerations for holding that it was. This interpretation is also strictly in accordance with what is laid down by Vattel. In the concluding section of his chapter on the Interpretation of Treaties (sec. 322) he says:

"All the rules contained in this chapter ought to be combined together, and the interpretation be made in such manner as to accord with them all, so far as they are applicable to the case. When those rules appear to clash, they reciprocally counterbalance and limit each other, according to their strength and importance, and according as they more particularly belong to the case in question.

"The conclusion which I have arrived at upon a consideration of the rules given by writers upon international law is, it appears to me, borne out by the cases decided in the courts in England upon the interpretation of contracts, wills and statutes. I might cite numerous cases upon the construction of each of these where words equally extensive, taken by themselves, as the words of the regulation, have a restricted interpretation put on them. I shall however confine myself to two cases upon the interpretation of statutes; and I cite these cases, because an argument has been founded upon the regulation as being a statute. And if it can be seen that in putting the restricted interpretation which I have put on this regulation, I have not gone beyond the liberty which the Courts in England allow themselves, it cannot, in view of the opinion which Vattel gives, in the passage I have cited, of the strictness of those courts, be considered that I have gone too far. The first of the cases to which I refer is that of *Hawkins v. Gathercole* (24 L.J. ch. 332.) before the Lords Justices Knight, Bruce and Turner. It turned upon the construction of the 13th Section of the Statute 1 and 2 Vict. c. 110. The question was whether the statute, although in terms referring to all rectories and tithes, extended to ecclesiastical rectories and tithes, and it was decided that it did not. The decision arrived at was that the act extended only to lay rectories and tithes.

"The other case is that of *Cope v. Doherty* (27 L.J. ch. 600.) tried in the same Court. This case turned on the interpretation of the words "any sea-going ship" in the 503rd and 504th Section of Merchant Shipping Act, and upon the principle laid down in *Hawkins v. Gathercole* it was decided that they did not extend to foreign ships.

"These cases are, I think, sufficient authority for putting on the words of this regulation considered as a statute, an interpretation as restricted as that which I have put on them. In those cases the Judges did not require to go into evidence as to the cause and purpose of the act or the extraneous circumstances which bore upon it. They could find these in the statutes and decided cases and in legal treatises to which they could refer. But in this case, the regulation was made in view of a state of circumstances, social and judicial, existing in Japan, and of these this Court only can be informed by evidence. Against the relevancy of this evidence it was urged that it was to show that a statute had been constantly infringed, and that the infringement of a statute, however long continued, would be no defence to a charge brought under it, just as in the case of the charges lately brought under the Sunday Trading Act in which the accused were convicted although the statute had been so long infringed as to have been considered practically obsolete. It is quite true that if this had been the effect of the evidence, it would have been irrelevant. If it had been shown that medicinal opium was included in the prohibition, the fact that others had constantly evaded it, would not have availed the accused. A conviction under such circumstances might possibly be attended with great hardship; but when the law is known, the Court cannot allow considerations of hardship to interfere with its administration. But this was not the effect of the evidence. It was to show, not that a prohibition had been disregarded, but that there was no prohibition in the case.

"In thus deciding that the accused is not guilty of the charge preferred, I do not finally settle the question as to the disposal of the contents of the two tins which have been seized. All I say is, that the accused is not liable to the fine prescribed by the particular clause of the regulations which has been the subject of consideration; and that the goods seized are not liable to confiscation under

that clause. I understand that the issue I had to try was guilty or not guilty of the charge of violating that particular provision.

"I do not say that these tins were not correctly described in the summons as containing opium, and I do not say that they were not smuggled. But as all the evidence and all the arguments for the prosecution, and all the evidence and all the arguments for the defence, with the exception of what was put forward by the accused at the close of his address, and to which I shall refer, were directed to the question of whether the contents of these tins were, or were not, prohibited to be imported;—all I decide is that they are not prohibited to be imported, and that the person importing them, even though he smuggle them, is not liable to the punishment either of fine or confiscation under that particular provision of the regulation. But as medicinal opium, as much as any other medicine, is subject to the provisions of the regulations which relate to all goods, and as it is right that the Customs authorities should have an opportunity of considering what course they will take with respect to the two tins in question after the decision I have given, these tins will remain in the charge of the Custom House under the seal of the Court until further application is made on the subject.

"Of the points referred to in the statement of the accused, to which I have alluded, one was whether he ought not to be allowed to import medicinal opium duty free. The decision of this question is not necessary to the decision of the present case; but as it may save the same question being agitated in subsequent proceedings, it may be desirable that I should state my opinion upon it. All the evidence showed that, with one exception, where it had been imported as medicine, it had been charged with the *ad valorem* duty of five per cent on the original value, and I understood that it was the contention of the accused himself that that was in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff Convention. But he claims that because a large parcel of medicinal opium, recently imported by a Dutch house for the War Department, was allowed to be brought in duty free, he ought also to be allowed under the favoured nation clause to import his medicinal opium duty free. But to say that the Japanese Government, because it charges no duty on goods imported for its own use, when imported for it by a Dutch merchant, is bound by the favoured nation clause, to grant to a British merchant, when importing the same description of goods for sale, the privilege of passing them duty free, appears to me so manifestly to ignore the meaning of the favoured nation clause as to require no argument. Such a contention cannot be sustained. In view of the decision I have come to, and looking at the provisions of the Tariff of 1866, I decide, so far as I can decide a question not directly in issue, that medicinal opium is an article coming under class IV. of the Import Tariff and chargeable upon importation with an *ad valorem* duty of five per cent on original value.

"The other contention of the accused appears to me equally unsustainable. He stated that what he had done in this case was done in accordance with directions from a late Superintendent of Customs. That Superintendent, he says, told him that he ought to do as others did, that is, that he ought to import his opium under another name. Now if the course he took is illegal the fact of such advice being given by a Superintendent of Customs as that which he says was given him, would not render it legal, even if the fact of such advice being given were established. It would have been contrary to the Superintendent's duty to give it, and the accused could not avail himself of it for his defence. I must add that I think the accused ought to have known that it would not avail him; and I think the statement was one which he ought not to have made. He knew, for he stated it himself, that the Superintendent referred to was abroad in the service of his country, and could not answer the accusation against him which the statement contained. And he can therefore only blame himself for having subjected himself to the observations which that statement elicited on the part of the Counsel for the Customs." Case dismissed.

[The above Report is, as we have stated in another column, presented to our subscribers as an example of the manner in which we should wish to furnish them with important cases bearing on points of Commercial or International law, which

may hereafter be useful as precedents, or instructive in business. We are quite aware that the number of our readers to whom such matter is of interest is limited: but to make this Review of real value, such heavy matter as this must occasionally be introduced. We shall be glad to receive, as early as possible in the ensuing week, intimations that such a legal record will not be unwelcome; and as an experiment, purpose printing on foolscap paper, and in such a fashion as will admit of subsequent binding, a few copies of this Report, which will be on sale, at the price of \$1 per copy. The price may appear high, but as we do not anticipate a sale of more than fifteen to twenty copies, it will do little more than cover the cost of the reprint. Ed. J. T.]

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY NIGHT, March 1st.

THE long-looked for O. & O. str. *Belgic* arrived on Sunday night about 8 p.m. reporting all well. No accident had happened to her machinery, but she had experienced strong westerly gales throughout the passage. She naturally arrived here with empty coal-bunkers, and we learn that so bad was the quality of coal put on board her in San Francisco by the contractors, that she only reached port with great difficulty, after actually burning some of her own woodwork. As lumps of clay, &c. were found mixed with the coal, we may possibly hear of these contractors being made responsible, in some measure, for her delay and loss.

The *Alaska* came in from Hongkong on the 26th ultimo and left on the 28th for San Francisco. We wish her a better passage home than she made out. The *Tanais* with the French mail from London of the 11th January arrived this afternoon, two days before her due date; and the *Malacca* with London dates a week later, left Hongkong on the 28th ultimo and may be looked for here about Wednesday or Thursday next. The *City of Tokio*, which left San Francisco on the 7th February, is hourly expected, and her namesake the *Tokio-Maru* has been kept back for her till to-morrow. The usual M. B. coast steamers have come and gone; and we have to note, also, the departure of the American ship *Messenger* for New York, which has at last managed to complete her cargo of tea.

The news from Europe, both by Reuter's public telegrams, and by private messages to Banks and Commercial houses, are of the gravest character, and trade is almost entirely paralysed. If Russia persists in demands inconsistent with the safety of British interests, and incompatible with the tranquillity of Europe, on her will fall the heavy responsibility of provoking a general European war—a war of such magnitude as the world has never witnessed yet. She provoked this war with Turkey, but her guilt will be deepened beyond measure, if she now provokes a general strife, of which no man can think without horror, and of which, as we see, merely the foreshadow darkens all the earth, even unto these far isles of the Pacific Sea.

The 'butcher's bill,' by the way, of the Imperial army, incurred in suppressing the Satsuma insurrection last year, has just been published. 4194 were killed in battle or died in Kiusiu from other causes, 1929 died subsequently of wounds—making a total loss of 6123 men; while of 9678 wounded, 6284 have recovered, and 3394 are still under treatment. We turn to pleasanter themes.

Full prominence is given in other columns to Racing affairs, and the proceedings of the new Club. This appears likely to be a very flourishing concern, for, besides the hundred and thirty names recorded before the Rules were read at the Meeting on Tuesday, others are dropping in daily, and fully thirty or forty may be expected from Tokio. We earnestly trust that men will, now that so many causes of disquiet have been removed, try to sink all minor difficulties, forget old causes of quarrel and avoid new—and exhibit in their prosecution of the noble sport of racing

a little of the good temper, mutual forbearance, and common sense which used—ah, how long ago!—to distinguish the Yokohama Turf.

Would it not be a good idea, by the way, to invite a couple of Japanese gentlemen to join the Committee. We think the compliment would be appreciated; and hereafter, when foreign racing takes full hold of the native mind—as it is sure to do, and that at no distant date, we might have the number of our members doubled, and be able to build our Grand Stand and fill up the dip, from our own surplus funds. If our native friends in the government would but make us a present of the course, instead of charging a ground-rent for it, what an extremely graceful act of liberality this would be, and what a beautiful "Emperor's Vase" we might afford to give out of the rent we should save!

Mr. White, after a short season of a week, has removed his dangerous matched and his acrobats; we trust that he will select a better site, and receive the support that his exertions deserve. We regret to be unable to do more than notice that, while we are 'putting the *Japan Times* to bed'—the *Modeste Minstrels*, a company from H. B. M. ship of that name, are tuning up for an entertainment of mixed music and drama, in aid of the funds of that most worthy institution the Temperance Hall. We are not advocates for more temperance than is strictly moderate, in general, but no drink is better than too much; and too many unfortunate men cannot hit the happy mean; so these institutions deserve all the support they can get. If it will not be considered a 'bull,' we will take the liberty of wishing the teetotallers a 'bumper' house to night.

Certainly, one of the disadvantages of *giurikisha* travelling, in Yokohama particularly, is the necessity which every humane man feels under to get out and walk whenever the foot of a hill is reached. And as even the easiest slope up to the Bluff necessitates the fare getting out of the carriage, it is almost a matter of wonder why, except to save a very few minutes of time, anyone, sound in wind and limb, goes in that direction at all in one of our Yokohama 'hansoms.' One does sometimes see a foreigner remain in his *giurikisha*, with the miserable creature in the shafts toiling in zig-zags up the steep incline, but the spectacle is not common, as men who cannot get out and walk, are generally careful to relieve the draught animal, by hiring a second at the foot of the hill, to push behind. But it may not be generally known that, since the invention of *giurikishas*, heart disease has been rapidly on the increase among this part of the Japanese population. There must be some unwholesome strain on the lungs in this special work, we should imagine; as the class of *cango*-carriers, from which most of the *giurikisha* pullers is drawn, used to be an exceptionally healthy set of men. It is not often, however, that a case comes so directly under foreign notice as this, which is reported in the *Hingo News* of the 23rd ultimo:—

"On Wednesday morning a foreigner hired a *giurikisha* at the Kobe (not Sannomiya) Station to ride to No. 13 on the Concession, and passing the Public Park, the driver seemed to stagger, but recovered himself. Just after the fare had gone in to Messrs. De Ath & Co.'s, news was brought from the street that the coolie was ill, and he was seen to be sitting in his machine senseless and apparently in convulsions. Cold water was applied and Dr. Thornicraft sent for. Meantime an excited crowd of Japanese had succeeded in finding on a vacant lot an old straw shoe, which they placed on the sufferer's head with great apparent satisfaction to themselves. On the doctor arriving, the man was pronounced past much hope of recovery, but the only treatment likely to be of any use was recommended and the man removed to the police station, where he died almost immediately. Dr. Thornicraft was not required to make a *post mortem* examination, but death was probably caused by the rupture of some bloodvessel."

The European passenger in this instance had of course no cause to reproach himself—for the distance between the two points mentioned is only about a mile, and is on the flat for the whole distance. But we should not envy the sensations of any foreigner here, who—from simple laziness or want of thought,—might have to see his *giurikisha* driver "stagger," and "go into convulsions," and finally die—just after pulling him up the Camp hill.

Our readers who prefer the healthful and harmless sport of rowing to the more exciting one of horse-racing will hear with regret of the *hara-kiri* of the Nagasaki Boat Club, which lamentable ceremony took place on the 8th ultimo and is reported in the *Rising Sun*. Mr. Hellyer appears to have acted as 'best friend' on the occasion, having carried the motion for dissolution by 7 to 3 and Mr. Ringer will dispose of the property of the deceased.

The flourishing financial position of our own Boat Club, in contrast to this, is very satisfactory. It has just borrowed \$1,000 to build a new Boat House, and as it has property more than sufficient to cover this, and a long list of members, the disbursements for this sum will soon be cleared off.

We hear from Hongkong, that H. E. Mr. Pope Hennessey, the Governor, on the 20th instant entertained at a state dinner at Government House, H. E. Sameshima, the new Japanese Ambassador to France, and Matsukata, Japanese Commissioner to the Paris Exhibition. After dinner, the Governor proposed the health of the Queen and the Emperor of Japan, and the visitors were attended to their ship on the following day by a guard of the 74th Highlanders, and embarked under a salute. They appeared highly gratified with their entertainment and the honours paid to them.

We note that the China Fire Insurance Company have again paid a dividend of 12 per cent to their shareholders, putting seven thousand odd dollars to Reserve Fund. This is in spite of exceptionally heavy losses during the year. It is quite a pleasure in these hard times, to have to congratulate anybody on making money.

Several important law cases have been commenced or advanced a stage, during the week, of which due notice will be taken in our Law Reports,—should sufficient inducement offer, (as the agents for ships say),—and quite a number of small earthquakes have simultaneously forced themselves upon our attention. The winter is over; and a sort of prophetic feeling of spring may occasionally be felt in the air, particularly after tiffin on the East side of the Grand Hotel, which reflects the heat of the morning sun in a very pleasant manner. The amorous chirps of pairing birds, in the wood on the French hill across the creek, would materially aid the delusion that spring is really coming, if they were not mingled with the discordant cries of the coolies who are building the sea-wall of the British Navy-yard.

Here we are interrupted by our chief printer, who informs us:—
'*Moa dekimasen.*'

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or sentiments of Correspondents. No notice can be taken of anonymous letters; whatever is intended for insertion under this heading must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE FEAST OF LANTERNS AT CANTON.

• • • "The scenery all the way from Hongkong is very beautiful, strongly reminding one of many parts of Scotland:—bare green hills, with grey rocks cropping out near the summits, and lovely, sunny little glens between them; with small patches of pasture or tilled land, and tiny thatched huts, always at the right points for k-y lights in a sketch. We pass the Bogue forts, which you will recollect as the scene of a fight in our last war with China—where John objected to our landing troops and taking them in the rear, as unfair—considering that they had got everything in readiness to receive our attack in front. Soon after this, the passage—all the way called the Canton river—grows narrower as one approaches Whampoa. Here the griffin or the globe-trotter sees and admires his first Chinese pagoda. All I can tell you about these buildings is that their pictures on the willow-pattern plates are as true as photographs and perhaps for the first time in my life my expectations were realized. I am, however, bound to confess that I missed the three little men going over the bridge. The tree with the large oranges is clearly the Amoy pommelo-tree.

"Canton lies fifteen miles from Whampoa, up a river, and as one enters the city, which is one of the largest and most populous in the Empire, one's first feeling is very different to that with which the first pagoda was encountered, for it is one of disappointment. There were two disillusion for me. The place looked very small, mean and insignificant, and there were not a tithe of the boats I looked to see. I began to wonder where on earth the two millions of people were stowed away. The ground immediately bounding the river, on which the city is built, is as flat as the palm of your hand; and as none of the houses are more than two low stories high, of course only the river front is seen, and one can form no idea whatever of the depth to which the mass extends behind it. The roofs of such public buildings as there are scarcely rise at all above the general level, and the only exceptions are the pawn brokers' shops, which tower up grim and dark, with but narrow loop-holed slits instead of windows, looking very like the old Scotch 'pouls' that one sees on the Border. To look at Canton from the opposite side of the river, therefore, at the long unvarying range of low houses with the scars of recent fires in their midst, here and there, and a limitless tiled roof behind, is not a cheerful prospect. Nor is there anything in the colouring of the picture to make up for the lack of variety of form. In most Eastern cities that I have yet seen—the houses are of dazzling white, with gay green

patches of foliage here and there, and often spots of gorgeous colouring in mosque or bazaar. But here, the building materials are mainly unbaked bricks and mud, and the dreary long lines of roofs are of thatch or tiles, as dirty and gloomy as the walls. Whatever wood is apparent is rough, grey, unpainted—a deep fringe of dirty grey boats, several fathoms deep, all jammed close together, skirt the shore; and the river itself, shallow and full of mud and all manner of filth, which the inhabitants first throw into it, and then stir up with their boat poles, is turbid, thick and brown, as used to be the old Fleet Ditch and with just the same patches on it here and there of lovely prismatic colour on floating scum. Canton on a cloudy, wet day, must be a miserable spectacle, for then only the river front would be seen, and one would miss the one redeeming feature in the landscape, which I am gazing on now,—the glorious background of hills—the White Cloud Mountains. There the sunlight falls, and the cloud-shadows flit across in ever-changing colour, as on all the eternal hills all the wide world over; making one long to be lying on the thick moss listening to the tinkle of the burn at one's feet, and to the low whispers of the stately trees as they welcome the warm summer wind, fitfully playing with their foliage.

"But one is soon recalled to the reality in the immediate foreground, which is as I have faintly attempted to describe it. And if such a picture—a town mean, sordid, grey, poverty-stricken, filthy—does not charm the eye; how the nose suffers when one enters the place! Some of the low parts of Calcutta and Bombay are not sweet, there are lanes in Damascus which smell of anything else than roses, Cairo is stenchoriferous in spots, and we all know how Byron described Cologne. But in the Indian and Egyptian cities, there is always detectable, through disagreeable smells, a suspicion of spice and incense and fragrant woods;—but in China there is no relief, and the stench of the towns is simply horrible. Compared with such, Dhoobe Talao is as a fountain of *frangipanni*, and Bhoroe Bazaar as a bed of violets. The faint, sickly, nauseating odour is as that of the worst parts of London combined,—of Wych Street as it used to be, of Seven Dials, the Westminster Rookeries, Clare Market and Tiger Bay. Such foul smells assail the sense where Irish families live six deep in damp cellars; where rats, cockroaches, and every "pestilence that walketh in darkness" swarm; where immense oysters, decayed fruit, scraps and trimmings of butchers' meat, are the luxuries of life; and where second-hand boots, stale vegetables, old clothes-fried fish and periwinkles, singing birds and rabbits, broken bottles and kitchen stuff the mediums of barter and the staples of trade;—and where costermongers and low Jews, bird-fanciers and ticket-of-leave men, black fighting-men and unwashed street-walkers, are the inhabitants. Such is Canton, mostly; and such, I suppose, most Chinese cities. The well-to-do people one does not see abroad; the lower classes swarm in the close, narrow streets. They are all dressed alike in dingy blue or dingier white; they seem to live coarsely, if one may judge from the cooked food exposed for sale, chiefly on roasted rats, dried ducks, split open like codfish or ling, ill-conditioned pork, fly-blown slices of pine-apple, and a highly indigestible substance made of bean-flour, which looks like yellow soap. They never seem to change their clothes, are always having their heads shaved in public—the soap suds being subsequently thrown into the gutters—and, I am told, get washed twice during their stay on earth, once just after they are born, and once just after they are dead. Altogether an unwholesome lot.

"I discovered the solution of my problem about the whereabouts of the two million inhabitants of Canton; by wandering about the place for a day, until I was foot sore, and then feeling that I had not seen a tithe of it. My dear —, the streets are all lanes; not one of them as wide as a London Court, or an Edinburgh wynd. There are few or no open spaces, and the streets are really not more than seven feet wide, except in two or three instances. A bird's eye view would not detect them at all, for the sky is shut out by overhanging balconies and frowsy clothing hung out to dry. Closer packing one cannot conceive.

"There is one very noticeable feature about these lanes—quite peculiar to Chinese cities, and very suggestive. Each street (I will call the lanes 'streets' for courtesy) has a gate at each end. A threshold and lintel of solid stone are provided with holed about nine inches apart, and into these, every night, are slipped thick poles. A simple enough contrivance fastens them at the top, so that no one can lift a single pole, until the 'key' is withdrawn. Thus each street is made into a defensible fortress, and should rebels or robbers get into the city, each street would thus have to be stormed in succession, before the place could be sacked; and any internal disturbance is, by the same means, prevented from spreading. This is an advantage; but the system has its disadvantages too. If a convivial gentleman were out late at anything beyond a hundred yards from his home, it would have

to be a case of 'where I dine, I sleep—and where I sleep, I breakfast'—for unless he had the 'key of the street' literally,—that is, the key of his own street, he certainly wouldn't be able 'to go home till morning.' In case of a fire too, one would be apt to imagine that these barricades would be a great nuisance. But, indeed, in case of fire in Canton, it is difficult to understand how it is ever put out. And the large scars left here and there by conflagrations apparently recent, would prove that they are extinguished with difficulty. Probably by pulling down the houses.

"The manufactured products of the place are, I should think, about every thing that one can possibly conceive to be made out of metals, wood, ivory, silk, cotton, or anything else. But as neither you nor I have any special interest in commerce, I will not tire your patience by attempting to describe, or even by giving you a list of what I have seen. I have, of course, bought a quantity of specimens of them, and we can talk about them when I get home. I will conclude what I fear you will think already too long a letter, by trying to give you an idea of the fairy-like Feast of Lanterns, the magic touch of whose light and joy changed this ugly, grey, melancholy mass of hovels into a realized dream of Aladdin's palace gardens.

"The Feast was held on the three nights of the September full moon—our harvest moon—and celebrates the birth of that luminary, sister to the Celestial Lord of the five-clawed Dragon. On the swell night, that of actual full moon,—every Chinese householder is obliged (doubtless on pain of being chopped into mince meat), to hang out from the highest point of his dwelling two lamps at least, and all day long the people may be seen occupied in fixing these lanterns on the points of long slender bamboos, till the city from afar looks like an enormous cane-brake or a mighty bed of bulrushes. The lanterns, gaily painted, are of all forms, sizes and colours,—and as night falls and the full moon slowly rises, the lights begin to glimmer, and in half an hour, the low, mean, sordid city is changed into an almost indescribable scene of brilliant, twinkling, glittering light and beauty. I was most fortunate in the weather. A slight, very slight mist hung above the water, which, while it dimmed the lamps in the extreme background, yet magnified them and deepened their colour. In the foreground were the boats, scarcely moving on the river, which lay as smooth as a mill-pond,—for there was now scarcely a breath of wind—all gaily lighted, and some, the flower-boats (floating theatres and houses of entertainment or cafes) brilliantly illuminated with rows of coloured lamps and bright devices of every conceivable pattern. Behind lay the great city, with its countless houses, closely packed, the lights on their roofs gently swaying to and fro on the vibrating canes and showing like a fiery cloud hanging in mid air: all the ugly forms and dull grey masses vanished,—shrouded in the luminous veil. And so away to the farthest limits of the walls, where the glitter changed to a dull red glow, like that of a dying fire. Then, from every flower-boat on the stream, rose incessant rockets, and each fiery meteor, as it rushed up into the deep, deep blue of the Oriental sky, seemed to drive down into the river a corresponding flash; each, as it burst into a rain of sparks above, reflected below, keeping the water always glittering with many-coloured specks of flame. And from every boat, from every house, burst innumerable crackers, sounding like an incessant fusillade, and making the air heavy with the perfume from the shavings of scented wood with which they are filled. Then the tinkle of the Chinese gittern, and the sonorous clang and clash of gong and cymbal, softened by the distance, filled the air with a not unpleasing music,—the music of holiday joy. And best of all, to my mind, far above and all in contrast to the glitter and the glare,—the smoke and mist, and fiery glow,—the rattle, and the laughter, and the song:—there rode the full, round moon,—pale, pure, bright, as she only is in the glorious lustrous purple of a tropical sky, and beyond the city on the far horizon, the eternal hills lying quiet and calm and beautiful, sleeping in her light. Puck and Oberon, Messieurs Cobweb, Mustard-seed and Peasblossom, might be revelling and rioting here—but there, one might well believe that Titania slept her happy sleep amongst immortal thyme and oxlips, and where the never-dying, nodding, nodding violets blow! Indeed it was a scene I shall not readily forget."

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. I. Can any experienced woodman, or analytical chemist, favour the community with a disquisition upon charcoal? Is there any method of getting rid of the

free carbonic acid gas which rises from it—before burning, or of any portion of the same? Do different woods give off different volumes of vapour, and if so, which is the safest to use in a bath room? (*Unanswered.*)

J. T.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such? I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan. (*In process of answer.*)

B. H.

Qy. 3. Were the actual incomes of the Nobles larger or smaller than as represented by their official rent-rolls and have they now, as a matter of fact, more money to spend on themselves, than they had in old times?

N. or M.

Qy. 5. Dwellings on the Bluff are much more susceptible to the motion of the earthquake wave, than those on the Settlement. Why so? is the object of this Query. One would think that, considering the magnitude of the causes at work, the few feet of elevation of the Bluff from the Settlement would make no difference at all in the perceptible motion of an earthquake; for the same reason it would appear childish to suggest that the weight of the various constructions on the Settlement would have the effect of steadying, as it were, the earth's crust; however it is a fruitful matter for conjecture, though by no means a pleasant one. (*Unanswered.*)

JISHIN.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese?

Z.

NOTES.

(Addendum to Note in reply to Qy. 3 respecting the comparative value of Daimiōs' revenues, now and in ancient times.)

NOTE. In my note in your issue of Feb. 16, I used the term "official lists of Daimiōs' revenues" because "N or M" had used the term "official rent-rolls" in his query. It was not the exact term to be used on the occasion; but the meaning, I submit, was quite clear, and could cause no confusion in the mind of any one who had read both query and answer.—The statement that the revenue of the Daimiō of Kaga was 1,200,000 koku was a slip of the pen; I had intended to write 1,020,000.—Nor was there any doubt in my mind as to the correct-meaning of the term *taka* or *kusadaka*.

But my object in this note is not so much to acknowledge the corrections which the fuller knowledge of "Studiosus" has made in my hasty note; as to ask him what authority he can give for the statement that the fiefs as a general rule yielded 20 to 25 per cent more than the assessments? That is to say that the *agaridaka* was greater than the *kusadaka* as found in the *Bukan*. I am bound to say that my authority on the subject is entirely verbal. There is quite a consensus of opinion against him among all the Japanese of my acquaintance; and "Studiosus" must produce some reliable written proof in order to convince me that he is correct. I do not think his remarks about the reclaiming of waste lands alone are sufficient to account for the great increase he mentions. This argument cannot be used at all unless he shows:—

(1). That there was on an average from twenty to twenty-five per cent more land under cultivation in each fief at the Revolution, than at the time of the assessment, which was I believe the Keichō period (1596-1615).

(2). That the waste land to which he refers was not assessed in the slightest degree.

I should be glad if "Studiosus" can clear up these points. I may say in conclusion that my study of the subject has been too slight to qualify me for taking up a side. I am an enquirer rather than a disputant.

X.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter IX. THE CASTLE OF SAWAYAMA.

IN the environs of Kiyoto, within two bowshots of the "avenue of the three thousand pines," lay the castle of Ishida Mitsunari, Baron of Sawayama.

Its site had been chosen on the plateau of a hill, clothed from base to summit by stalwart firs and cedars, under whose damp shade the moss had already clustered deeply on the bases of the battlements and the roofs of the barbicans.

Along the main avenue of the three thousand pines, and the broad branch that led thence to the castle, frosts and winds had cast down such a thick carpet of leaves and sprays, that the silence of his muffled footfalls inspired the traveller with a feeling of awe, a sense of tranquil solemnity; and when he reached the massive gates, and saw their ponderous copper studs and hinges thickly crusted with verdegriis, and the guard houses that flanked them on either side, with their heavy gables of armorial tiles and gratings of tough oak, he might have deemed that the whole had been summoned into an enchanted existence by the dusky giants that waved their hands overhead with such a weird persistency, that even the strong sunlight became in their presence a fitful glimmer, and trembled as it peered into the gloomy corners darkened by their shade.

Yet with all its veteran air, the castle was no older than the fortunes of its owner, Ishida. Its mossy nooks and leaf-strewn alleys were but illustrations of that element in his character that took for its motto:—"learn to seem what you wish to be." He might have selected many more convenient sites; spots nearer the stream of life and within easier range of the observation that men in lately reached high-places generally court, but he could scarcely have chosen any circumstances that lent him more ready aid in concealing the immaturity of his baronial titles.

Strange it is how often the seeds of fortune turn to bitterness in the core of the full-grown fruit! Those whom greatness leaves sufficiently great to confess their former obscurity are but a very pigmy band amid the giant multitude that would fain barter half the record of their fair deeds to obliterate one narrow page of their early history. In the days of Ishida Mitsunari's seignior, men, as they sipped their tea, often reminded each other of a page called Sakichi, who waited on the canon in a certain temple of the Shingon sect. One hot summer day, a knight rode up to worship at the shrine, and was afterwards served with tea by the hospitable priest. The first cup offered was scarcely tepid, the second warmer, and the third so hot as to demand very leisurely sipping. The knight, an ill-favoured but singularly shrewd-looking gentleman, seemed surprised at this gradation of temperature, and, asking for an explanation, was respectfully informed by the page that the first cup had been adapted to his hot and droughty mien, the second to his half slaked thirst, and the third to his sated palate. "Verily, my lad," said the knight, "your talents are above tea-making, and if you will come with me, I promise you ample opportunity of exercising them." The knight kept his word, for he was no other than Hideyoshi, and the page Sakichi was the future Ishida, Baron of Sawayama, Chief Minister of Finance and member of the Privy Council; who however knew, to his intense annoyance, that even within the limits of his own suzerainty, travellers seldom received a third cup of tea without dubbing the inn-servant, Sakichi, and making jocose allusions to the future that awaited cunning pages. This did not, however, deter Ishida from carrying into all the details of his house and equipage, the same methodical shrewdness that had served him so well at the outset, and thus it happened that, while the majority of his compeers had become their friends' or vassals' debtors, for sums

required to meet the war imposts, Ishida's strong-room enclosed a golden surplus variously estimated at from ten to twenty thousand riyos.

On the afternoon of the day succeeding Seta Kamon's visit to Hidetsugu, Ishida had left the court at Fushimi, with the intention of passing a short time at his own castle, for he deemed it best to be absent when the result of the envoy's mission to the Prime Minister was made known to the Regent. Not that he shrank from the consummation of his schemes; but because, having detected in Taiko a remnant of affection for his adopted son, he saw that Hidetsugu's downfall was still uncertain, and did not care to run the risk of assisting at a possible reconciliation between the Regent and the Minister. Yet even under these circumstances, he was disturbed by no doubt or disappointment, for he felt that with his resources and the opportunities Hidetsugu's conduct furnished, the result was secure, sooner or later.

Night-fall had scarcely lulled the bustle excited by the Baron's arrival, when an officer rode hastily up to the castle gate, followed by an escort of five or six men. Giving his name as Kakizaki Joyemon, he desired to see the chief chamberlain Shimaroku. The guards at the gate admitted him without any difficulty, for he wore the livery of Mayeno Tajima, the Prime Minister's monitor, and declared himself a messenger from the court at Fushimi. These details quickened, also, the pages in the vestibule and through them the chamberlain, who, hastening to meet his inexplicable visitor, found a man covered with dust and betraying all the disorder of extreme urgency. He had received orders, he said, from the Captain of the Regent's body-guards to request the immediate attendance at court of the Baron of Sawayama.

"But," objected the chamberlain:—"my master only returned from Fushimi this afternoon."

"Indeed!" said the other with a very transparent assumption of concern:—"I am sorry then to be the medium of causing the Baron to repeat his journey."

"And what is the Regent's business with my master?" demanded the chamberlain.

"The Regent's business with the Baron!" repeated the stranger, examining Shimaroku curiously, as though he discovered in him a new and very novel form of chamberlain.

"Yes, the Regent's business,"—reiterated the chamberlain, although he was beginning to fear he had committed one of those blunders his inexperience made him constantly dread; for like the Baron, his vassals were new men.

"Really, Sir, I cannot tell. My position scarcely entitles me to such knowledge," replied the stranger, now assuming an air of disdain that confirmed Shimaroku's worst misgivings.

"Yet," he remonstrated;—"my master is hardly one to be summoned verbally in this vague way even by the Regent."

The stranger paused a moment, as though he would have been glad to humour the chamberlain by discussing this question, but presently, shaking his head despairingly, said:—

"I really must confess my inability to answer your scruples, Sir."

"Then, I think it very unlikely the Baron will comply with the orders you carry,"—retorted the chamberlain, excited beyond prudence by the other's supercilious assurance.

"Perhaps it would be as well to consult the Baron on that point,"—suggested the stranger quietly. "I do not think that if the Regent had anticipated any lack of zeal in Sir Ishida, I should have been commissioned to use such despatch in conveying these orders."

There was nothing to be urged against this view of the case, and the chamberlain felt that he must run the risk of incurring the Baron's displeasure by presenting himself with these meagre details, for it was plain that nothing more could be elicited from this supercilious visitor.

"Be so good then, as to wait a moment," said he:—"I will inform my master of your message."

"Ah!" ejaculated the stranger simply, but imparting to that solitary monosyllable a tone of tardy approval that completed the chamberlain's embarrassment.

The Baron however received Shimaroku's report with such evident surprise that the other felt his own inquisitiveness had been fully justified.

"Show the messenger in here," he said, "I will question him myself," and presently Shimaroku returned conducting Kakizaki, who suffered the Baron's somewhat severe scrutiny with perfect unconcern.

"You bring me, I understand, a message from the Regent," said Ishida, "but I see you wear Sir Tajima's uniform."

"Yes, Sir, I accompanied my master to Fushimi this evening," said Kakizaki, replying to the Baron's implied question.

"Did your master then desire you to carry me the Regent's orders?" asked Ishida.

"Not directly, Sir, but he authorized the Captain of the Guard to employ me for that purpose."

"And has Sir Tajima returned to Kiyoto?" demanded the Baron.

"No, Sir. His business with the Regent had reference, I believe, to his duties as the Prime Minister's Monitor, and we gathered that some important step requiring your assistance was contemplated before my master's return. I was commissioned to carry His Highness' orders, because I was waiting to escort my master home, and could thus start with the least possible delay."

Ishida reflected a moment. This method of summons was most unusual, yet its very informality forbade the idea of deception, and the circumstances described attested their own truth, even supposing there was any reason for mistrust. It seemed certain that the Prime Minister's conduct had at last driven his monitors to appeal, and that Taiko had in consequence determined on taking some decisive action. If this were so, delay that might induce reflection was of all things most to be avoided, and Ishida gave orders to have his horse saddled, and a sufficient escort immediately warned to accompany him.

As Kakizaki and his companions moved outwards from the gates, they could see lanterns flitting hither and thither, and hear the shouts of men, the jingle of accoutrements, and all that *melange* of sound that accompanies hasty preparation.

But if the retainers of Ishida lacked long pedigrees, they were not wanting in method or discipline. Very soon these tokens of stir and industry concentrated themselves under the arms of the solemn cedars that guarded the gates, their cones and sprays gleaming like silver in the light of a hundred lanterns borne aloft on poles of bamboo, and scarcely had its last bustling unit been absorbed by the motley mass of squires, bowmen, equerries and men-at-arms, that marshalled itself beyond the vestibule, when a sudden hush fell upon the whole, as the Baron appeared on the threshold.

With a brief glance at his retinue's arrangement, Ishida mounted his horse, and riding leisurely at first, that his followers might have time to dispose their ranks and adjust their trappings, shook his bridle and broke into a brisk trot, as soon as the tail of the procession had fairly turned into the main avenue of the three thousand pines.

All through the streets of Kiyoto, echoing to the clatter of the horses' hoofs and the cries of the couriers, and out into the lonely country roads beyond, the procession swept merrily along, preserving indeed its compact form, but little by little adding to the noise of its progress the sounds of panting horses and gasping runners. By and by the leaders' lanterns dipped over the brow of the moor that looked down on the "Wisteria Forest," and then the road, sheltered alike from wind and sunshine, burthened with mouldering vegetation and torn by errant springs, grew so rugged and deceitful that progress became a measure of temerity rather than of vigour.

Half a furlong from the forest's outskirts, began those labyrinths of wisteria that brought it ruin and renown together, for the cruel parasite, stretching from tree to tree, clasped strong oak, and cherry stems in its deadly clutches, and tightening round them season by season, strangled them slowly and surely, till they stood sapless, like blanched skeletons in the moonlight. Sometimes however, its tendrils, turned backward by hazard, twisted and knotted themselves into the most fantastic of bowers, where the long blossoms hung so thickly in early summer, that the bee scarcely found room to rife their petals.

Into such a roadside harbour, two men-at-arms turned from the last files of the procession. One of them carried

a lantern, which he unfastened from the long pole that supported it, and then by its light, choosing a convenient place among the distorted elbows of the wisteria roots, both men sat down, and disposed themselves to change or refit their sandals.

"You are a prudent fellow, Naosan," said he of the lantern. I never thought of providing myself with a spare pair of sandals."

"Well," replied the other, "I have left my foot-gear too often on this forest road already. Winter and summer it's always the same; stumps, ruts and mud. I doubt whether your sandals will carry you to Fushimi."

"I am afraid not," said the lantern-bearer, "but I mean to take it easy from this on. If we get to Fushimi in time to follow the Baron home, nobody will be a bit the wiser."

"All right then," assented Naojiro. "I shall keep by you, for without some light, even my new sandals would fare ill." And with that the two passed leisurely from the bower.

But the second was still stooping under the boughs of the wisteria when a crashing blow fell upon his head, and the leader had scarcely turned towards the sound, before a similar fate befell him. Then two men stepping forward, drew the bodies behind the wisteria arbour, and possessing themselves of the dead soldiers' mantles, hurried back in the direction of Kiyoto. In a few minutes, however, they turned again into the forest, and mounting two horses that stood shackled a short distance from the road, galloped off at full speed, scarcely drawing bridle till they came within sight of Ishida's castle. Then, dismounting, they left their horses to the care of a groom who had evidently been expecting them, and running as if their lives depended on their speed, thundered and shouted at the gate of the castle.

"Hilloa! Hilloa!" cried the warder, half awake, "who may these noisy customers be? Gently, Sirs, gently. Passing the mean in gate-rapping is not the quickest way of passing the gate," and possibly to establish the truth of his aphorism, the old vassal's inertness seemed to grow with the knockers' impatience.

"Quick, warder, quick," shouted those without:—"The Baron has been attacked in the Wisteria Forest! Open the gate! Rouse the guards!"

But already a hurried stir and murmur of voices had replaced the silence of the guard-rooms, and twenty eager faces pressed against the lattices on either side.

"What is this about the Baron being attacked in the Wisteria Forest?" demanded the captain of the guard.

"Who are you that bring these tidings?"

"Naojiro and Motokichi, men-at-arms, Sir," answered those without, speaking both together so that their voices were indistinguishable. "Our party has fallen into an ambush, and we have lost half our numbers. The Baron himself is wounded and has barely escaped with a few of the escort to the temple of Kwannon."

But the tumult was now so great that the men's words were unintelligible. The old warder was thrust aside, and an excited crowd, stumbling through the gates, found two men sitting beyond, their faces covered with mud and their voices broken by fatigue. For some time all was confusion and perplexity; but presently from the inner circle of the ever-growing throng, a cry arose that gradually multiplied itself until it swelled into a many-tongued roar, "to arms! to arms!" and in a moment the dense mass of men melted into a hundred groups, that running, met and absorbed all questioning comers, so that at the last the guards, their captain, and a few other officers alone remained at the gate.

One of these officers, beckoning the two men-at-arms inside the gate, took a lantern and held it close to their faces as if he doubted their identity. Then making a sign to the warder to shut the gate, he said:

"Come into the vestibule, Naojiro and Motokichi. I should like to hear the particulars of all this."

"Sir," replied one of the men, "we know nothing more than we have told you. We were attacked before and behind in the thickest part of the forest, and unless you bring speedy succour, the Baron cannot hold out."

"For my part," cried the second:—"I shall not remain here any longer. Our master may be in mortal peril at this very moment. I left the fight to summon help, but I shall not run the risk of disgrace by lingering here:—"

and from that moment, unity of object so fully and, swinging round, he pulled off his mantle, dashed out of the gate, for the warder was still swinging the heavy leaves forward.

The Captain picked up the mantle, and with the other officers examined it carefully. It bore the Sawayama arms, and the right shoulder and sleeve were thickly spotted with half dry patches, which these men of war recognized at a glance, and with the recognition, their hesitation seemed to vanish at once and completely.

"Out with the horses, men!" shouted the Captain of the guard:—"Let us get to Fujimori by midnight."

"Aye, aye, Sir, and carry home the heads of the varlets before dawn," replied a score of voices, it on the ground, and followed by his comrade, darted supplied the place of controlling authority, that from a maze of scattered fragments, jostling, impetuous and discordant, there grew together quickly and surely a long black phalanx, bristling with spears and halberds and brilliant with light and armour, which, swaying at first from side to side like a reptile before it springs, presently surged forward in one huge wave of purpose, and rolling through the gates, swept along with shouts and clashing over the shadows of the three thousand pines.

The castle was deserted. Only a few old men sat in the guard house, crouching over the brazier, while the women of the household, huddled together, listened, with throbbing hearts, to the beat of the horses' hoofs and the stamp of the soldiers' feet, and held their breaths as the sounds grew fainter and fainter, half expecting to hear them deepen again into the crash of combat.

But had solicitude strength to give these sounds permanency, or was it only imagination that preserved their echoes after the reality had passed away? Nay, not only preserved but intensified them, for now it seemed as though a roll of rapid hoofs was beginning to grow again out of the darkness, swelling and advancing, faster and faster, till it became a clattering thunder not a furlong distant. No creation of either solicitude or reality, that,—but a very active reality of fifty horsemen dashing up to the gates, and a confusion of voices clamouring, "good news! good news! open, my masters. The Baron is saved. The villains that attacked him are all killed or taken."

The poor old warder! Drifted beyond the pilotage of reason by such a tide of strange events, he and his equally feeble fellows drew back the bars with trembling fingers, and had begun to peep eagerly through the slowly widening separation of the leaves, when a burst of wild laughter shook the mailed crowd without, and the gates, flying back before the thrusts of a hundred hands, sent their decrepit custodians tottering and trembling hither and thither. Two of the old men indeed fell under the weight of half a dozen swords, but this murderous impulse was immediately checked by a voice strong with authority that shouted:—"No violence, where there is no resistance! Remember the rule, comrades!"

He that spoke was a man of great stature and evidently the leader of the band. Like his comrades, he wore haberk, helmet and visor, but there all uniformity of equipage ceased, for bow, spear, sword, arquebuse, almost every species of offensive weapon was represented, and, what astonished the inmates of the castle still more, was that on the helmets of these fifty men were blazoned the armorial bearings of half the noblest houses in Japan.

As soon as the whole had entered, the gates were closed behind then, and the leader, raising his hand to command silence, addressed them thus:—

"Now, comrades; a score of you to guard every exit. Don't let a man, woman, or child out, but remember, no unnecessary violence, and no flurry. Our friend the Baron's wise vassals will follow him to Fushimi, and we shall see nothing of them before daylight."

Thereupon, some half the band dispersed quickly to right and left, and the rest remained standing before the vestibule.

"Now, Kakizaki," said the leader with a laugh, "do the honours of the house. You have had the pleasure of making the Baron's acquaintance," and forthwith, amid a hum of merriment, Matsuyama Raitaro stepped forward and led the way into the castle.

"But by this time, a few vassals who had of necessity remained behind, and even some of the women of the

household, believing that their master had been killed, and that nothing remained but to sell their lives dearly, seized the first weapons they found, and ran to meet the assailants. The two parties entered the wide corridor communicating with the vestibule, from different ends, but almost simultaneously, and thus the space that separated them afforded each time to estimate the others' numbers. Such a disparity then became apparent, that the scanty knot of vassals involuntarily paused, for it was mainly composed of seneschals and menials, who think before they fight. Two officers, however, presently pushed their way through the ranks of the domestics, and ran forward sword in hand. A coincident change also accomplished itself in the order of the assailants, for their tall captain, placing his hand on the shoulder of a little man that marched in the van, drew him back and passed in front himself, laughing after a fashion that sounded terribly at discord with the circumstances. His followers, however, seemed accustomed to his ways, for they yielded to him quietly, and did not even utter a word of applause when the two officers fell under his irresistible strokes.

"We seek no man's life except he oppose us":—said the Captain, addressing the now shrinking company of retainers. "We have made the Baron our prisoner, and now come merely for his ransom. Your submission will save yourselves and him, but if you determine to resist, remember that we have already proved too strong for all your fellows."

This speech changed the vassals' hesitation to complete submission. Some indeed, attempting to fly, found all the issues guarded by armed men, but the main part, throwing down their weapons, bowed their heads on the mats.

Then the Captain of the assailants, taking a lantern, came forward, and after a moment's scrutiny, selected an usher who had fallen on his knees and was rapidly mumbling incoherent prayers. Grasping the unhappy man, who made no resistance, but only redoubled the fervency of his devotional exercises, the Captain threw him down, and setting his foot on his neck, twisted one of his arms till the usher writhed and shrieked in agony.

"Tell me where your master's money is stored," said the Captain, releasing his victim's arm for a moment. "If you do so, you are safe; but if not, you and all your comrades shall die, and the women and children burn with the castle!"

The usher needed no further persuasion. Not once, but over and over again, did he repeat the desired information, and indeed never afterwards failed to do so, whenever one of the bandits approached him.

For these fifty men were the Shidzugatake Bandits, and their leader was Ishikawa Goyemon. Twelve thousand pieces of gold, besides a quantity of rich armour and other valuables, were the spoils they carried away from the castle that night, but whence they came or whether they went no one discovered, for only one old vassal attempted to track them, and he was found the next morning, gagged and bound on the road-side.

The party, meanwhile, that set out to succour the Baron, reached the temple of Kwannon and found the priests sleeping quietly, unconscious of all disturbance. In the wisteria forest, however, the corpses of two men-at-arms were discovered, and full of alarm and suspicion, the vassals determined to push on to Fushimi. But as they emerged from the forest, they met the Baron on his way home. He, too, had found nothing but surprise at his arrival, for neither had the Regent sent for him, nor had Sir Tajima been at Fushimi that day.

At first Ishida fancied that Hidetsugu had discovered his plots, and attempted to draw him into an ambush, but this idea was negated by the reflection that had such a scheme existed, its execution would certainly not have been deferred till his return journey. He therefore resolved to strike boldly back, never doubting that a little scrutiny would easily unriddle the mystery, but when he found more than two hundred of his vassals on the verge of the forest, and heard the stratagem that had lured them out, he knew at once that the real point of danger was his castle, now completely denuded of defenders.

Thenceforth there was little halting on the road. Once more the thunder of hoofs rolled along the pine avenue, but this time there was no need to summon the warders, for the gates stood open, and the wind blew unobstructed across broken doors and pillaged rooms.

The most puissant Baron of Sawayama and all his gentle retainers had been the dupes of an infamous robber and his rabble of satellites. But hush! Let no man tell it, for in the story lies fresh food for mockery, new aliment for the hungry crowd that gapes round homespun lordliness.

(To be continued in our next.)

RULES OF THE YOKOHAMA JOCKEY CLUB.

1. The Jockey Club is formed to promote the interests of Racing in Yokohama, and to take charge of the Course, enclosure and buildings.

2. The Jockey Club is open for membership to the whole Foreign Community and to Japanese, at the discretion of the Committee, upon application to the Hon: Secretary and payment of the subscription; but no person shall be admitted a member who shall have made default in payment of stakes or forfeits, who shall have been guilty of foul riding, or have been a party at any time and at any place to a fraud or malpractice connected with Horse racing.

3. The subscription to the Jockey Club shall be \$10 per annum, payable half yearly in advance; such subscription giving access to the Course and enclosure for the term for which payment has been made.

4. Every member upon admittance to the Club must conform to the Rules and By-laws, and he must abide by all the consequences resulting from his breach, or non-performance thereof. A copy of the Rules will be handed to him by the Honorary Secretary.

5. A General meeting, of which 14 days' notice shall be given by advertisement, shall be held in the first week in February of each year, for the purpose of passing accounts, electing a Committee, and discussing any questions relating to Racing; but notice of any proposed change in Rules must be advertised ten days before the meeting takes place.

6. A General meeting shall also be held in the month of June for the purpose of laying before members a statement of the condition of the Club and the result of the Spring meeting, at which also any changes in Rules may be made, upon the usual ten days' notice having been given.

7. The Secretary of the Club shall, upon the written requisition of 15 members, call an Extraordinary meeting of the Club, provided in the opinion of the Committee such meeting be necessary or desirable. Upon the written requisition of 25 members, the Secretary shall at any time call an Extraordinary meeting of the Club. In all cases ten days' notice of such meeting shall be given by the Secretary, together with notice of the special purpose for which the meeting is called. But no change in the Rules can be discussed or passed at such Extraordinary meeting.

8. At the General, or Extraordinary meetings of the Club, the presence of one fifth of all the members shall constitute a quorum; but in the event of no quorum being obtainable at any such meeting, it shall stand adjourned for one week, when any number of members present at such adjourned meeting shall be deemed to constitute a quorum; but no new business shall be brought before an adjourned meeting.

9. At the General Meeting in February, a Committee of eleven out of the body of members shall be elected by Ballot for the year then current.

10. The Committee shall elect from among themselves an Hon. Secretary, an Hon. Treasurer, and a Clerk of the Course.

11. In the event of any member or members of the Committee retiring, from any cause whatever, the remaining members of the Committee shall have the power of filling such vacancy or vacancies from among the members of the Club, for the term during which the Committee remain in office.

12. The Committee is empowered to frame and enforce by-laws for the governance of their own proceedings, and for the management of the Race Course.

13. The Clerk of the Course is empowered to issue all notices relating to the Paddock, Grand Stand enclosure and Race Course, and to regulate the hours for training and all matters pertaining thereto.

14. Any person creating an uproar, or disturbance, or using ungentlemanly or improper language within the precincts of the Grand Stand and its enclosures, or upon the Race Course, will thereby forfeit his right of entry to the Grand Stand and its enclosures, and to the Race Course; during a time at the discretion of the Committee.

15. It shall be competent for the Committee to suspend for any period they may determine, or to dismiss, any member who may be found guilty of default, fraud, malpractice, or improper riding in any Race.

16. The privilege of riding at the meetings shall be confined to amateurs, members of the Club, and no salaried persons or grooms shall be allowed to enter ponies, nor shall they be permitted to ride in any except four races at each meeting, to be specially designated by the Committee. Salaried riders, non-members, shall pay a fee of \$5 at each meeting.

17. A programme shall be published at least two months before the dates of the Race meetings, the dates of which shall be fixed by the Committee.

18. The Committee shall have the power of postponing the days of the Races in cases of urgent necessity.

19. All Ponies must be the *bond fide* property of, and entered by members of the Club. By the term "All Ponies" is meant China and Japan ponies only; half-bred ponies whose dams are Japanese, to be considered Japan ponies.

20. All entries to be addressed in a sealed cover to the Secretary, to be opened in the presence of not less than three of the Committee. The entrance money must be paid at the time of entry, in bank notes, height of ponies and riders' colors given, and the *bond fide* owners in case of a confederacy, declared, or the nomination will not be taken. Post entries for Griffins and for Hacks will be received at a later date.

21. Any alteration in the names of Ponies that have run in Yokohama or elsewhere, must be notified in the entries to the Committee, and the Pony entered as "so and so," late "so and so."

22. Three ponies to be entered from opposing stables, or no race.

23. A member is allowed to enter and run more than one Pony for a race, except the race be in heats, but must declare which will win if able.

24. The term "Open Race" to mean a race in which there are no qualifications as to entry, no exclusions, and no penalties.

25. Penalties for winners to mean for winners on the flat only, except for winners of Hack races.

26. Ponies shall be measured on the Course by the Committee at a time to be appointed by them. All Japan ponies shall be measured before each and every meeting at which they run, but it shall be competent for the Committee to accept old measurements for China ponies that may have already run here or elsewhere.

27. Scale of weights for China ponies: to be 9 stone 7 lb. for 12 hands, and an increase of 3 lb. for every inch above up to 13 hands, 3 inches, and 5 lb. for the inch or fraction of the inch above 13 hands 3 inches. Fractions of an inch to count in favor of the Pony under 13 hands 3 inches.

Scale of weight for Japan Ponies to be 9 stone 12 lb. for 13 hands, and an increase of 2 lb. for every inch above. Fractions of an inch to count in favor of the Pony.

A special scale of weights shall be drawn up by the Committee for the four races in which salaried persons or grooms are permitted to ride.

28. Before each race, owners or their authorised representatives shall deposit in the box provided for that purpose in the weighing room, the name or names of the Pony or Ponies they intend to start for the race to be then run. All Ponies so declared to start, and not competing, will be

disqualified for the rest of the meeting. After the second bell has been rung, the box containing the names of Ponies declared will be opened, and their names and numbers declared, after which no further declaration will be allowed. One of the Stewards or Committee-men appointed shall draw for the places of the Ponies declared to start, and hand a list thereof to the starter, who will proceed to the starting post, and start such ponies as are ready on the Course, in the order of the list as drawn.

29. Riders must appear in the Colors entered, under a penalty of \$5 to go to the Race Fund.

30. No owner of a pony engaged in any Race shall be permitted to ride for another independent stable in the same Race.

31. Riders shall carry not less than the specified weight and all must be weighed out by one of the Committee at the place of weighing before the race.

32. Should a rider carry beyond the weight specified for his Pony, the actual weight he rides shall be publicly announced before the race commences.

33. After a race, no rider, requiring to be weighed, shall be permitted to dismount except in the enclosure, where he will be received by one of the Committee. Any Pony whose rider disobeys this rule is distanced, and will not be permitted to start for a handicap.

34. When two Ponies run a dead heat and their owners agree to divide, both are liable to carry weight as winners. The dead heat shall be run off at an interval of a race, unless the owners agree to run at the end of the day.

35. In the event of two or more separate stables agreeing to run together for mutual benefit, a confederation shall be declared to the Committee at least one week before the first day of the races, and which shall be duly posted. Failure to comply with this rule shall disqualify such stables from running ponies at the meeting.

36. If in any race, one pony shall cross the track of another, it shall be deemed a disqualification unless there be two or more clear lengths between them at the time of crossing.

37. If in any race one pony shall purposely cross, jostle, or in any way interfere with another, such pony shall be disqualified from winning, as shall also any other Pony running in the same race belonging wholly or in part to the same stable.

38. Contracts or agreements between employers and their salaried riders or bettoes can be registered with the Hon. Secretary upon payment of a fee of \$5 to go to the Fund, and it shall be competent for the committee to investigate and deal with all complaints that may be made in connection with such contracts.

39. It shall be in the power of the committee to inflict fines upon salaried persons or grooms, to the amount of not exceeding \$20 in each case. Pony owners are responsible for the conduct of their servants and for fines imposed upon them, unless they prefer to dismiss them, in which event their new employers will be responsible.

40. Entrance fees for "Presentation Prizes" to go to the Fund, except when otherwise mentioned, and, in the event of a walk over, the entrance fees only, and not the prize or stakes, will be given to the winner.

41. Matches to be run after the Race Meetings must be declared to the Secretary on the Course before the close of the last day's racing and a fee of \$5 paid at the same time.

42. All disputes to be referred before the close of the day's racing to the Committee, whose decision shall be final. The Committee will decide in accordance with Newmarket and Jockey Club rules, when the question cannot be settled by the published rules. Any objection to Ponies must be made to the Committee before the race commences.

43. Any complaints about the measurement of the distances to be run, must be made to the Committee before the race begins.

44. All complaints, statements of disputes, or objections of any kind must be made in writing, and accompanied by a fee of \$5 to go to the Fund.

45. Records of all complaints made to and decisions given by the Committee shall be kept by the Honorary Secretary for their own use.

46. At the meetings, admission to the Grand stand or enclosure, will be \$2 per day or \$5 for the three days, for non-members and they must conform to the rules. Members free. No person will be admitted to the Grand stand or enclosure, without a ticket, which must be shown to the gate-keeper. Non-members can obtain tickets from the Honorary Secretary and at the gates on race days.

47. A refusal on the part of any member to conform to the rules and regulations, shall render him liable, subject to the decision of the Committee, to expulsion from the Club. But any member who may have temporarily forfeited his right of membership, may be readmitted to the Club, after a certain lapse of time, with the approval of the Committee.

EXTRACTS.

A BRITISH DOLLAR.

(From the 'Straits Times')

WHEN the Legislative Council again resumes its sittings there is one important subject which should form the text for an interpellation by one or other of our unofficial members, and that is, what answer, if any, has been received by the Government here from the Colonial Office with reference to the coinage of a standard British Dollar for circulation throughout the Eastern Archipelago, in Siam, Cochin-China, Hongkong and the Treaty Ports of China. In 1872 or 1873, the subject was first mooted here in consequence of a threatened failure of the supply of Mexican Dollars, and, if we remember aright, representations in favour of a British dollar were made by the local Government to the Colonial Office. Again in 1876, the question cropped up and was discussed both here and in China, and further urgent representations in favour of a British coined dollar were sent to the Colonial Office from our own Governor, Sir William Jervois, and from Sir Arthur Kennedy, Governor of Hongkong. The only reply that, as yet, has been received from the Colonial Office is, so far as the public are aware, that the subject is under the consideration of the Home Government. Surely there has been time enough now given to consideration and the time for action has come. The Chambers of Commerce of Shanghai, Hongkong, and Singapore have all, some more than once, strongly advocated the introduction in the Far East of a British coined Dollar. It may be said that there is not a banker, merchant, or trader of any experience in the Far East, but who, if asked his opinion, would give it unhesitatingly in favour of such a coin. The Colonial Office knows, or ought to know, this, and, it is, therefore, difficult to imagine what can be the reason for the hesitation of the Colonial Office, especially seeing that in sanctioning such a coinage no risk or expense would be incurred by the Home Government.

In 1876 the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce thought it likely that the Chinese Government would be induced to follow the example of Japan, and establish a Mint of its own, if the matter were put in a proper light before it. There was a general opinion, however, throughout China that there would be no security that the standard purity of the coinage would be long preserved under the auspices of the Chinese Government, on account of the ineradicable venality of its Officials. It was asserted, also, that it would be vain to expect that the Chinese Government would ever sanction such an innovation on national prejudices and custom as the introduction of a Mint would be. And this last opinion turns out to have been a sound one. The Foreign Ministers in Peking endeavoured to induce the Chinese Government to favour the scheme, but, according to the latest news, the reply received was a very blunt statement of the determination of the Chinese Government to have nothing whatever to do with a Mint or a civilised form of currency. They will sanction neither railways, nor decent coinage, nor any other new-fangled invention of Western civilisation. There is no hope, therefore, of assistance from China to provide a supply of coin necessary to the trade of the Far East, and so much the more reason is there that the Home Government should no longer delay in the matter, but make up its mind to sanction what is so universally desired here and in China, the issue of a British trade dollar. The Straits Association and the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of Shanghai and Hongkong in London, would be doing good service by reminding Lord Carnarvon that the question has been now long enough under consideration.

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Are we consuming our Capital? No. 2. Chinese New Year Festivities.

Professions and Trade Directory. The Housekeeper, Mail Steamers Register
Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

YOKOHAMA MEDICAL HALL AND DISPENSARY.
E. C. KIRBY & CO.

DISPENSING CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

Physicians' Prescriptions and Family Recipes Accurately Prepared. All
Drugs and Chemicals Guaranteed to be of the Best Quality.

Importers of Mineral Waters, Toilet Requisites, English, American and
French Patent Medicines and Proprietary Articles.

61, MAIN STREET, YOKOHAMA. MAIN STREET, 61.

POSTAL NOTICES.

List of unclaimed letters &c. remaining at the British
Post office, January 15th, 1878:—

Anderson Rolf.	Schneider, A., Dr.
Blundell A. W.	Stopford, W. E.
Ellis, Arthur, C.	Todd, George.
Halurhaba Adolf Revd.	Trunjia, Moses & Co.
Holburn, Robert.	Watt, W.
Kuki, Riuchi (Regd. Letter)	Waters, J. M.
Madge, William, Capt.	Walker, G. W.
Sutherland, Daniel.	

MERCHANT VESSELS.

"Abercarno"	"Laura R. Burtham"
"August"	"Loyal Sam"
"Christine"	"Ladoga"
"Ceylon"	"Midnight"
"Fair Leader"	"Mars"
"Grenada"	"Orange Grove"
"H. G. Wappans"	"S. R. Mead"
"Julia A. Brown"	"Sir Lancelot"
"Kedar"	"William Manson"

F. G. MACHADO,
Post Master.

Post Office, Yokohama,
15th, February, 1878.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial
Japanese Post Office, January 15th, 1878:—

Armstrong, H. B.	Mendelson Bros.
Andrews, E.	Prestileff, B., Tokio
Allin, H. N., Tokio, 2	Place, Edwd., Register
Burnes, John J.	pini, E
Bianchi, L., Tokio.	Pigeon, F., Tokio
Campbell, A. A.	Robertson, S.
Cartman, E., Tokio	Richards, Wm. H., 2
Carme, P.	Schneider, Dr. A. Tokio
Cheesman, F.	Shinagaya, R.,
Clark, W. S.	Saito, T.
Camhefert, Emile.	Sekiya K., Tokio
Churchill, Rev. H. A.	Schwaub, M.
Day, T.	Smith, Mrs.
Degron, M. Refused	Schmidt, Edward
Edwards, Mrs.	Tailer, B.
Flood, Wm.	Theall, James
Godfrey, J. G. H., Tokio, 4	Tobv, Miss, Tokio
Hanzen, E., Tokio	Taylor, Mrs.
Hall, Sam H.	Tarbell, Rev.
Hamill, G. D.	Trungia, Moses & Co.
Hoffman,	Thorel, H.
Hanzen, E., Tokio	Van Peth, M. F.
Hashimoto, M.	Walker, G. W., Tokio
Harding W. J., Tokio	Wychoff
Kluge, Theodore, Tokio	Wylie, A. H.
Kelaimbi & Son-	Wilson, North & Co.
Myacila	Watt W.
Marie, Mrs. A., Tokio	Yona, Kitchie

SHIPS.

Barque "Ariola" S. S. "Patro"
Ship "Sumner R. Mead."

L. T. FARR,

Acting Superintendent.

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, 1878.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c

Bread	...	...	...	.08 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .18	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.19 to .30	"
Veal	"	"	...	.25	"
Pork	"	"	...	.12 to .16	"
Sausages	"	"	...	.30	"
Beef—Jap. Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .16	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.16 to .25	"
Veal	"	"	...	.20	"
Pork	"	"	...	.10	"
Sausages	"	"	...	.20	"
Oysters	...	...	...	.05 to .10	per 100
Eggs	...	...	...	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Chickens	...	...	...	.15 to .25	each.
Geese	...	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Wild geese	...	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Pigeons	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Turkeys	...	...	...	2.00 to 3.50	"
Hen Turkeys	...	...	...	"	"
Deer	...	...	...	.15	per lb.
Wild—boar	...	...	...	.12	"
Hares	...	...	...	.37 to .50	each.
Pheasants	...	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Quail	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Snipe	...	...	...	.06 to .08	"
Woodcock	...	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Wild ducks	...	...	...	.37 to .40	"
Bombay Onions	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	...	...	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	...	...	.12½	"
English Coal	...	...	...	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	...	...	...	8.50 to 10.00	"
Anthracoite	...	...	...	15.00 to 17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	...	...	10.50 to 11.50	"

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes, sweet
potatoes cabbage, small cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes,
lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery,
urnips & carrots.

PROFESSIONS AND TRADES DIRECTORY.

ARCHITECTS.

R. P. Bridgens, ...	90	Bluff.
J. Lescasse, ...	84	Main Street.
J. Smedley, ...	32	Water Street.

AUCTIONEERS & COMMISSION AGENTS.

Bourne & Co., ...	70	Main Street.
H. Becker, ...	26	"
F. A. Cope, ...	95	Backst.
T. Wallace, ...	26	Water Street

BOOK-SELLERS AND STATIONERS.

Berriek, Bros., ...	60	Main Street.
Kelly and Co., ...	28	"

BROKERS.

Abbott, ...	28	Herald Street.
W. G. Aspinall, ...	28	"
W. R. Bennett, ...	32	Water Street.
C. S. Bland, ...	28	"
G. Dare, ...	76	Main Street.
J. J. Dare, ...	76	"
W. McDonald, ...	32	Water Street.
A. F. Negre, ...	80	Main Street.

CHEMISTS.

W. R. Brett, ...	60	Main Street.
F. Machefer, ...	185	Homura Rd.
North, Thompson & Co., ...	61	Main Street.

COMPRADORES.

G. Domoney and Co., ...	17	Water Street.
Exchange Market, ...	70	Main Street.
Langfeldt and Mayers, ...	52	Main Street.

COAL MERCHANTS.

P. Bohm, ...	113	Creek.
Martin and Co., ...	108	

DOCTORS.

Dr. W. T. Buckle, ...	100	
" C. G. De Jong, ...	179	
" Stuart, Eldridge, ...	66	
" Goertz, ...	12	
" Latham, ...		Cliff Dairy.
" H. M. Perkins, ...	75	
" D. B. Simmons, ...	120	Bluff.
" T. H. Tripler, ...	20	
" Wheeler, ...	97	Bluff.
Drs. Wheeler and Buckle, ...	75 and 99	Bluff.

DRAPERS.

Pratt, Bird & Co., ...	66	Main Street.
E. C. Kirby & Co., ...	59	"
Kilner and Handel, ...	72	"
Lane, Crawford & Co., ...	59	"
Lohman & Co., ...	53	"

HAIR DRESSERS.

Culty Freres, ...	51	Main Street.
C. H. Geffney, ...	60	"
G. Hoebens, ...	157	
E. Perrin, ...	31	Water Street.

IRON MERCHANTS &c.

Annand and Co., ...	55	
T. Rose and Co., ...	113	Creek.

LIVERY STABLE-KEEPERS.

Cobb & Co., ...	61	
A. Jaffray, ...	123	Homura Rd.
Pequignot & Co., ...	137	Swamp.

MANILLA LOTTERY AGENT.

G. Goudareau & Co., ...	166	
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MILLINERS &c.

Mrs. Cook, ...	72	Main Street.
Mrs. Davis, ...	66	"
Mrs. Vincent, ...	85a	"
Madame Giaretto, ...	45	Side Street.

NEWS AGENTS.

H. Cook, ...	72	Main Street.
Kelly & Co., ...	28	"

PASTRY COOKS.

L. Poiteven, ...	53	Main Street.
Peyre Freres, ...	80	"

POST OFFICES.

British, ...	236	
French, ...	134	
Japanese, ...		Honcho Dori.

SADLERS AND HARNESS MAKERS.

Durand & Co., ...	51	Main Street.
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SILK INSPECTORS. (Public).

Geo. H. Allcock, ...	33	Water Street.
C. Guissani, ...	168a	
F. Scheidt, ...	75a	Main Street.
F. Vivanti, ...	75a	"

STORE-KEEPERS, SHIP-CHANDLERS &c.

Carroll and Co. ...	50	Main Street.
Curnow and Co., ...	83	"
L. Caudrelier, ...	77a	"
J. Edwards, ...	89	Back Street.
J. J. Fourcade, ...	10	Bund.
H. Hohnholz & Co., ...	55	Main Street.
E. O. Kirby and Co., ...	59	"
Lane, Crawford and Co., ...	59	"
A. Maillet, ...	56	"

TEA INSPECTORS, (Public).

Bourne and Co., ...	70	Main Street.
A. W. Glennie, ...	96	"

TAILORS, OUTFITTERS &c.

Kilner and Handel, ...	72	Main Street.
E. C. Kirby and Co., ...	59	"
Lohman and Co., ...	53	"
Lane Crawford and Co., ...	59	"

WATCH AND INSTRUMENT MAKERS &c.

C. and J. Favre Brandt, ...	175	Homura Rd.
E. Jacot and Co., ...	71	Main Street.
F. Retz, ...	80	"
Van Liassa Bros., ...	66	"

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

DOWN TRAINS.

FARES.

Miles.	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	...	...	...
3½	Shinagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	...	25	10
6	Omori	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	...	40	20
10½	Kawasaki	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	...	55	30
12½	Tsurumi	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	...	70	40
16½	Kanagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	...	85	50
18	Yokohama	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	...	1 00	60

UP TRAINS.

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen	sen	yen	sen	yen	sen.
—	Yokohama	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	...	...	...	...	...	...
1½	Kanagawa	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	...	15	10	...	5	...
5½	Tsurumi	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	...	30	20	...	10	...
7½	Kawasaki	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	...	45	30	...	15	...
12	Omori	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	...	60	40	...	20	...
14½	Shinagawa	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	...	75	50	...	25	...
18	Shinbashi (Tokio) ...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	...	1 00	60	...	30	...

STATEMENT OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC; TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION.

	Pasengers &c.	Goods &c.
TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION. (Miles open 18) for week ended February 24th 1878.....	\$ 6,491.69	\$ 724.35
for corresponding period last year	6,729.56	875.72
Decrease	\$ 237.87	\$ 151.37

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1st 1878.

IMPORTS:—With *kinsatsu* down to 9½ discount, the Tea season closed, and absolutely nothing doing in Silk, business in our Import market is naturally checked, and ‘dull,’ ‘quiet,’ ‘nothing doing,’ are becoming stereotyped remarks against our quotations. Prices are weaker all round and we fear that no improvement can be looked for until the political horizon in Europe clears a little, or the native government hits upon some method of improving the position of its currency, the steady droop in which is beginning to be seriously felt in the neighbourhood of the open ports. For such small business as there is doing in our Import markets, we must refer our readers to the next page.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** The market has been absolutely paralysed during the week by the news from Europe, and for the first time for many years at a corresponding period, we have seen a day pass without the purchase of a single bale. Only about 80 Japanese bales altogether have been received for inspection into foreign godowns since our last report, and actual settlements have been almost *nil*.

Holders seem more anxious to sell, but in the present state of the market—an almost absolute cessation of business, it is impossible to test prices, and we must necessarily leave our last quotations in force. Stocks may be put down at 2500 Japanese bales.

Total shipments to date are 19,620 bales, nearly the same as at the same period last season. The *Volga* (Fr. mail) took away 316 bales on the 26th inst. and the *Alaska* 238 on the 20th.

TEA.—Our Market may now be considered as closed and transactions are quite nominal: we do not furnish quotations as they afford no criterion of the state of the market. The figures given in the table over leaf merely represent, therefore, the state of the market at its close.

First Garden musters of New Crop may be expected about the third week in April.

EXCHANGE:—Since our last, after a very quiet day, a fair business was done in Bank paper for the American mail. The same causes which have depressed our Import and Export Markets, have of course reacted on Exchange, and very little has been done in private paper. Rates close firm. On Hongkong and Shanghai only a very trifling business has been done.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months’ sight 4s. Od., sight 3s. 11½d. Credits, 6 months’ sight 4s. 0½d. nom. Documents, 6 months’ sight 4s. 0½d. nom. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months’ sight 5 00., sight 4.92½. Documents, 6 months’ sight 5.07. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 72½. Private, 10 days’ sight 73. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight ½ o/o disc. Private, 10 days’ sight 1 o/o disc. San Francisco Bank sight 94. New York Bank, sight 98½. **BULLION.** Gold Yen 394, *Kinsatsu* 437.

QUOTATIONS OF ARTICLES OF IMPORT AND EXPORT.

IMPORTS.	Prices.	Reported sales.	REMARKS.
Cotton Yarn—			
Nos. 16 to 24 per picul	\$27.50 @ 32.50		In fair request at lower rates.
ditto Reverse "	33.75 " 36.00		In demand.
28 to 32 "	31.25 " 35.25		Dull and prices weak.
38 to 42 "	36.00 " 38.50		Neglected, prices nominal.
(Bombay) No. 20 "	29.00 " 29.75		In fair demand.
" lower counts No. 14, 16 & 18	27.25 " 28.75		Do.
Cotton Piece Goods—			
Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	1.50 " 1.80		} Dull.
" " 8.4... .. "	1.70 " 2.20		
" " 9 lbs., 45 in. "	2.17½ " 2.47½		} Small sales reported.
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. "	1.10 " 1.20		
" 7.0 lbs. "	1.45 " 1.60		} Nothing doing.
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. "	2.45 " 2.62½		
Wh. Shtgs. 60 to 64 reed 40 yds. 35 in. "	2.00 " 2.35		15 lbs. small sales at quotations.
Indigo Shirtings 12 yds by 44 in. "	1.60 " 1.65		Nominal.
Turkey Red Cambrics 2.0 to 2½ lbs. "	1.75 " 2.00		Quiet.
" 3.0 lbs. "	2.07½ " 2.15		Wanted.
Black Velvets "	7.25 " 8.15		In fair demand.
Taffachelass (single warp) "	1.65 " 1.75		Do.
" (double warp) "	1.90 " 2.00		} Neglected, prices nominal.
Chintzes (assorted) "	1.70 " 2.35		
Victoria Lawns "	0.77½ " 0.80		Quiet.
Cotton Italians (col'd) per yard	0.14 " 0.15½		In moderate demand.
" " (blk.) "	0.11½ " 0.12½		Fairly saleable.
			Small sales reported.
Woolens and Worsteds—			
Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards per piece	5.50 " 7.25		} All quotations entirely nominal.
Mousselines de Laine 24 to 30 yds. by 31 in. "	0.17½ " 0.18½		
Plain per yard	0.20 " 0.20½		
Striped "	4.50 " 4.75		
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	1.20 " 1.80		
Cloth (Woollen) per yard	0.65 " 1.00		
" Union (54 in.) "	0.40 " 0.41½		
Blankets 6 lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lb. "	0.38 " 0.39		
Metals, &c.—			
Iron, Nail Rod—large per picul	2.60 " 2.85		Market dull.
" " small "	3.00 " 3.25		Small sales of 3.20.
" Bars, flat and round "	2.60 " 3.30		} Quiet.—Nothing doing.
" Pig "	1.60 " 1.80		
Lead "	7.20 " 7.45		
Tin Plates "	6.00 " 6.25		
Window Glass per box	2.90 " 3.10		
Kerosine Oil per case	3.10 " 3.20		
Quicksilver "	63.90 nominal.		
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 @		
" Welsh "	11.50 " 12.00		
" Australian... .. "	9.00 " 9.50		
China and Straits Produce—			
Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.00 " 16.75		No sales reported.
Formosa Sugar, Takao "	4.70 " 4.80		} Market firm.
" " Taiwan "	4.40 " 4.70		
" " White "	nominal		
Saigon Rice "	"		

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2 ... per pcl.	\$540 to 560 per pcl.	18s. 11d. to 19s. 7d.	52.80 fr. to 54.60 fr.	} 80 bales under inspection.	} 2,500 bales
" No. 2 "	510 to 525 "	18s. 0d. to 18s. 6d.	50.00 fr. to 51.50 fr.		
" No. 2½ (good medium) "	480 to 500 "	17s. 0d. to 17s. 7d.	47.20 fr. to 49.10 fr.		
" No. 3 (medium) "	460 to 470 "	16s. 4d. to 16s. 9d.	45.30 fr. to 46.25 fr.		
" Inferior "	450 to 460 "	16s. 0d. to 16s. 4d.	44.40 fr. to 45.30 fr.		
Oshio No. 1 and 2 "	490 to 520 "	17s. 4d. to 18s. 4d.	48.10 fr. to 50.90 fr.		
" No. 1, 2 and 3 "	470 to 480 "	16s. 9d. to 17s. 0d.	46.25 fr. to 47.20 fr.		
Hamaski No. 1, 2 and 3... .. "	450 to 470 "	16s. 0d. to 16s. 9d.	44.40 fr. to 46.25 fr.		
		All prices must be considered as nominal.			
Tea:—					
Common per pcl.	10.00 to 12.00 "	} Quotations given are the prices at which the market has closed for the season.			} nominal.
Good Common... .. "	13.00 to 15.00 "				
Medium "	16.00 to 17.00 "				
Good Medium "	18.00 to 20.00 "				
Fine "	22.00 to 26.00 "				
Finest "	27.00 to 31.00 "				
Choice "	36.00 to 41.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu ... per pcl.	12.00	} Nothing doing.			
" Various "	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax "	13.50				
Coal, Takashima "	9.00 to 10.50 "				
" Karatz "	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common "	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice "	2.25 to 2.40 "				
Sulphur (common)... .. "	2.60 to 2.80 "				

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
Feb. 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
* March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 7	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *City of Tokio*, P.M.S.S. due 28th February.

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March. 2	March 4	Mar. 7
* March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 30	April 1	April 4
April 3	April 5	April 6	" 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Belgic O. & O. S. S.* sailing 22nd March.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 8
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 23	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	" 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 26
Sept. 4	" 12	" 23	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

* The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

* No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

* Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

* Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Feb. 27	Mar. 26		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Mar. 2	Mar. 10	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Jan. 18	" 9		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 5	Apr. 22	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	Jan. 25	" 17		M. M. Co.'s -	London	Feb. 26	Apr. 15	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 7			P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 28		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 21			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco			

LIGHTSHIP SIGNALS.

The following are the new signals to be made from the lightship to denote the approach of vessels.

Merchant steamer:—A black ball, with the national flag of the vessel below, at the yard arm.

Mail steamer:—A black diamond, with the Company's flag below, at the peak.

Man-of War:—National flag of the vessel at the peak.

Sailing vessel:—For a ship; flag B. (red): barque, flag C. (red ball on white ground): brig, flag D. (white ball on blue ground): schooner, flag F. (white ball on red ground): all commercial code, with the vessel's national flag below as soon as it can be made out.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Feb. 24	Hotspur	Shaw	Brit. barg.	520	Antwerp		General	L. Kniffler & Co.
" 24	Augusta Beimers	Thompson	Ger. schr.	270	Takao		Sugar	Chinese.
" 24	Bertha Marion	Scarlett	Brit. ship	595	London		General	L. Kniffler & Co.
" 24	Belgie	Meyers	Brit. str.	2,627	San Francisco	Jan. 20	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 25	Akitsuishima Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	1,200	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 25	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,240	Kobe	Feb. 23	Mails and General	M. B. Co.
" 25	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Shanghai		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 28	Caldera	Williams	Brit. str.	1,304	London	Feb. 17	General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 28	Takachiho Maru	Sikemeier	Jap. str.	2,407	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 28	Alaska	Howard	Am. str.	4,011	Hongkong	Feb. 18	Mails and general	P. M. S. S. Co.
Mar. 1	Tanaia	De la Marcelle	Frch. str.	1,735	Hongkong	Feb. 22	Mails and General	M. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mesr. Oestman, Messrs. Marshall Bazing, E. de Bavier, Paul Roulez, W. L. Clarke, John Hill, Julius Bryner, Oliver Smith, G. Bayfield, J. J. A. Groenwort, Mr. and Mrs. Sasaka and child, and 5 Japanese in the cabin; and 2 Europeans, 3 Chinese and 137 Japanese in the steerage.
Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, from San Francisco:—Miss May Rodgers, Mrs. Morse, Miss Williams, Messrs. J. J. Swift, J. Mariana, and 2 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong:—Mr. White, Mrs. and Miss White, and 2 servants; and 1 European, and 138 Chinese in steerage.
Per Brit. str. *Caldera* from London, via Hongkong, and Shanghai:—Messrs. Patterson, Amoose, and Lieut. Porkoff, Russian Navy.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S.S. "Perim," Dec. 18.
FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," September 25; "Sumner R. Mead," October 26; "Laura," November 21.
FROM NEWPORT:—"Aureola," Sept. 19.
FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2.
FROM HAMBURG:—"Iphigenia," August 28; "August," Oct. 16.
FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—O. & O. "Oceanic," February 21. P. M. S. S. "City of Tokio" Feb. 7.
FROM ANTWERP:—"Hotspur," August 25.
FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)
FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.
FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Glenroy," S.S. "Glamis Castle." "Laurel," "Flying Spur."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. March 9th; America O. & O. and P. M. S. S. steamers, uncertain. Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. str. March 7th.

CARGOES:—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure \$20,000.
Per Frch. str. *Tanaia*, from Hongkong.—3,456 packages, general 2,091 packages.

REPORTS:—The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Sailed from San Francisco January 22nd, at 5.30 p.m. Encountered strong westerly gales throughout the passage. Arrived at Yokohama February 24th at 8 p.m. The "Perim" from Foochow and London to Strachan & Co. arrives as we are going to press.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Feb. 24	Auriga	Messer	Brit. barg.	650	Europe		General	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 24	Suminoye Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	1,320	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 26	Volga	Rolland	Frch. str.	1,502	Hongkong	Mar. 5	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 26	Oscar Vidal	Willis	Brit. barg.	299	Hiogo		Kerosine	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 26	Messenger	Gilkey	Am. ship	960	New York		Tea and general	Smith Baker & Co.
" 26	Belgie	Meyers	Brit. str.	2,627	Hongkong		Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 27	Glenorchy	Hogg	Brit. str.	1,700	Kobe		General	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 27	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,300	Kobe	Mar. 1	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 28	Alaska	Howard	Am. str.	4,011	San Francisco		Mails and general	P. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Frch. str. *Volga*, for Hongkong:—Madame Simon, Madame Mouchet, 4 children and 1 servant, Madame Jouet, and 3 children, Messrs. C. Hardinge, de Perpigna, P. Jourdan, W. Bowers, A. S. Owen, Tai Tack Cong, and Long Vin.
Per Am. ship *Messenger* for New York:—Mrs. Hussey and family.
Per Brit. str. *Belgie* for Hongkong:—Mrs. Stanford and 2 children, Mr. and Mr. White, Miss White, Messrs. L. Mallory, B. Harold, and Waterbury; and 4 Japanese, and 138 Chinese in steerage.
Per Brit. str. *Glenorchy* for Hiogo:—Mr. H. St. John Browne.
Per Am. str. *Alaska* for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Stone, Messrs. N. Wiard, Henry Ausor, and E. P. Bridgens in the cabin; T. Felore, Jean Alonzo, and 1 Japanese in the steerage.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. March 5th; for Hongkong M. M. str. February 26th; for America P. M. str. February 28th; for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. str. March 2nd; for Kobe, M. B. Co. str. *Tsuruga Maru*, Feb. 23rd; for Hakodate, M. B. Co. str. *Suminoye Maru* Feb. 24th.

CARGOES:—Per Frch. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—For France, 282 bales Silk; for London, 34 bales Silk; 121 bales Waste Silk. Treasure for Hongkong, \$39,191.00; for Saigon, \$100,000.00; for London, \$14,500.00.
Per Am. ship *Messenger* for New York:—Tea, 15,318 packages; General merchandise, 1,335 packages.
Per Brit. str. *Belgie* for Hongkong:—General, 6,897 packages; Treasure, \$1,950.00.
Per S. S. *Alaska*:—For San Francisco, 3,423 packages Tea; for New York, 704 packages Tea; for Chicago, 993 packages Tea; for Salt Lake City, 250 packages Tea. For New York, 216 bales Silk; for C. & S. America, 22 bales Silk.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Akitashima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate		M. B. Co.	
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Laid up.
Calders	Williams	British steamer	1,304	London		Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. Co.	Repairing.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steam	1,876	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 7	M. B. Co.	
Nagoya Maru	Conner	Japanese steamer	1,914	Shanghai	Feb. 17	M. B. Co.	
Sunda	Reeves	British steamer	1,704	Hongkong	Feb. 22	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeit	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. Co.	
Tamura Maru	Dithlefsen	Japanese steamer	558	Kobe		Government Service.	
Tanais	De la Marcellie	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	Feb. 22	M. M. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Feb. 14	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Tokio Maru	Swain	Japanese steamer	2,119	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 21	M. B. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Toyoshima Maru	Hubbard	Japanese steamer	597	Kobe	Feb. 19	M. B. Co.	
SAILING SHIPS.							
Angusta Reimers	Thompson	German schooner	270	Takao		Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Bertha Marion	Scarlett	British ship	595	London		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Cariolana	Cawse	British steamer	1,045	Nagasaki	Jan. 24	Captain.	For fr'ght ch'ter.
Hotspur	Shaw	British barque	520	Antwert		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Hudson	Vaughan	American barque		New York	Jan. 23	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands.	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Ladoga	Pierce	American ship	950	New York	Oct. 9	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Otsego	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
S. R. Bearse	Oakes	Am. barque	607	Philadelphia	Feb. 2	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Sacramento	Nelson	American ship	1,480	Newca'le N.S.W.	Feb. 17	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Tori	Kammings	Dutch schooner		Guam	Feb. 16	Captain.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Alert	4	541	Sloop	Commander R. Boyd
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1405	Corvette	Captain Buller, C.B.
FRENCH—Cosmao	10	1400	Corvette	Captain Hesseupfing
GERMAN—Augusta	12	1900	Corvette	Captain Dumas Vene
RUSSIAN—Boyan		2000	Corvette	Captain Boyle
„ Haydamak	8	1100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff
„ Vсадник	8	1069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

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The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

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They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

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RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

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" " " " 6 " " 4 "

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ALF. L. TURNER,

Acting Manager

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 10.]

March 9, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

THE DEPRECIATION OF THE CURRENCY.

IN common with our fellow-residents interested in the Japan trade, and in Japanese politics as affecting it, we have been carefully watching the recent fluctuations in the value of *Kinsatsu*. But our point of view has been a different one, and the conclusions we have, so far, arrived at also differ, from those of both the native and foreign press of Yokohama and Tokio. As we took occasion to remark, when cursorily noticing the Finance Minister's Statement, published in January last,—nothing that has been written on the subject of Japanese Finance since 1869 has been of much value, because what ought to have been a principal factor in the calculations of publicists has been almost entirely neglected. Japanese journalists cannot fairly be expected to be conversant with even the elementary doctrines of Plutonomy; but foreign writers on Finance are assumed to have at their elbows, if not in their heads, at least the works of Adam Smith and Ricardo, of Mill and Jevons, of Goschen and Walter Bagehot; though their memories or their libraries may not be enriched by all the writings of all the specialists. And certainly so elementary a truth as that the price of food is the true gauge of money's worth, ought not to have escaped them in the manner which it has done. The fact is, as we pointed out on the occasion referred to above, they have—all of them—failed to give due weight to the fact that the circumstances, experience, habits, prejudices, and lines of thought of the Japanese people are so totally different from those of European countries, as to render quite inapplicable to her present monetary situation the laws which govern European finance. A most interesting memorandum which we publish to-day in 'Notes and Queries,' on the paper currencies of the Daimiates before the Restoration, shows how thoroughly familiarized the people have long been with practically irredeemable promises to pay: and though appreciating to the full the labours of those foreign essayists who have been, for the last eight or nine years, trying to educate Japanese financiers, we cannot but think that they have been wasting their time; because the arguments they have been using, applicable enough to the Europe of to-day, will only be applicable to Japan, thirty years hence.

We need not point out to our foreign readers that the fluctuations in the value of the Mexican Dollar are of little moment to foreign merchants who are interested, as most of them are, in both Imports and Exports. To quote a phrase quite proverbial in Yokohama ten years ago:—'what they lose on the raga, they gain on the bones':—when *Satsu* are cheap, imports go off more slowly, but silk and tea can be more easily bought, and *vice versa*; and a moderate difference in value between coin and paper really matters nothing whatever. Also that this heavier depreciation, which paper has suffered during

the past six weeks or so, could not have occurred at a better time than at this always dead season of the year. Also that the time of year is partially responsible for it. And foreign bankers are, in addition, probably aware that native speculators in Tokio and Chinese compradores in Yokohama have been 'bearing' the market. But it is the apprehensions of the native journalists, who appear to be inoculating certain classes of the people, and even the Government, with their own fears, that we are anxious to allay. This ought to be easily done. If they will only grasp the idea, and hold firm to it:—that so long as a paper *yen* will buy in the markets of the interior as much rice, or fish, or vegetables—or go as far towards paying wages, *i. e.* will buy as much labour—as it did six weeks ago;—so long will that paper *yen* remain at *par* with the rice, fish, &c. and whether it is at *par* or not with a foreign coin which is not current in the country, or with a native coin for which the people in the interior will not give any more fish or rice, is a matter of no importance whatever. The fluctuations in the value of *satsu*, so far as our researches have extended,—and they have been pushed far,—seem to have affected merely foreign trade at the open ports, and the interests of foreigners and natives engaged in it;—the native food markets in the interior not a whit. 'The worth of a thing is what it will bring,' and so long as 'the pottle bag holds a pottle' in exchange for the same piece of paper which bought it last year, so long that piece of paper retains its value, and Japanese journalists have no cause for fear.

But this is what *is* to be feared. That journalists should frighten the people, and so create the very evil—panic—which, as patriotic, earnest men, they are seeking to avert. The Japanese press has grown, in a few short years, to very large proportions; and it is growing, and its influence is increasing, day by day. But its conductors hardly appreciate the enormous and growing weight of *responsibility* which is thereby accumulating on their shoulders. The masses of the people in any country are very ignorant, and none are so ignorant as those who know a little—because these begin to distrust their instincts, which are generally right, and found their actions on their opinions, which are always wrong. And this class of people especially are most easily led astray by their newspapers, to be able to read which, gives them a factitious advantage of a most dangerous character, over their neighbours who cannot read at all. Now, if the newspapers of the capital and the leading journals of the provinces go on, day by day, decrying *kinsatsu* and predicting panic and national bankruptcy—it will follow, as surely as night follows day, that their readers will gradually come to believe them, and their neighbours who cannot read, but can listen, will believe that a panic is coming—and then the panic will come. This is an English journal, and it would ill become

such a publication to advocate restriction of the freedom of the press;—but better, far better, than that this Government's paper currency should be depreciated as have been French *assignats* and American 'greenbacks,'—would be the circulation of a Government order forbidding native editors to write on Currency at all. And if a selected few of the most influential could be all locked up in comfortable quarters for a twelvemonth, with the best standard works on Plutonomy, and not let out till they had passed a severe test examination therein; themselves and their readers and the country at large would be greatly benefitted.

We are glad, however, to be able to announce to our foreign readers, that at least one exception to the above criticism of the native press can be quoted, in the person of the editor of the *Chingai Bukka Shimpō*, a commercial paper published in Tokio, which gives market reports, commercial telegrams, &c. and aims to become the future '*Economist*' of Japan. In an article headed 'The Cause of the high price of Mexican Dollars,' which appears in his paper of the 6th. inst., he combats the idea that there is any cause for fear, by detailing some of the reasons for the fall in comparative values of *kinsatsu*, and though he does not exhaust the subject, and—as it appears to us—does not give due weight to the effect of the last issue of paper—his contribution to the discussion now going on is of great value, and his newspaper might, with advantage, be widely circulated by the Government. We have not had time to get the article fully translated, which we shall have done for our next number, together with others to which he refers his readers, but the main points he makes are these:—

That during the war in the South-West last year, a large proportion of the new issue of paper money was distributed among the people of Kinshin, by the Imperial Commissariat, and by the soldiers themselves; thus enriching the local inhabitants. That these have immediately commenced to spend their gains in what to them are luxuries,—foreign goods. That thus there has been a sudden and copious reflux of *satsu* upon the markets of the open ports, in exchange for the foreign imports which have flowed out, until stocks have been almost exhausted. As the Silk season has been—so far as prices have ruled—disastrous to the native merchant, the balance of trade has been against Japan, and dollars have had to be bought to restore it. During January and February, very little silk has been sold even at ruling low prices, on account of the war in Europe depressing the trade, and with the Tea season almost over, the demand from the interior for imports continuing, stocks decreasing in Tokio, and speculators buying fast 'to arrive;'—it was natural that dollars should rise as they have done. He then goes on to argue, from the fluctuations of foreign exchanges, in sterling and bullion, &c., in support of his views; but as he altogether ignores the effect of the Bland Silver Bill just passed through the American Congress and Senate, it is hardly worth while following him here at present; especially as we have to discuss that subject ourselves, at length, next week. But one other point of importance he makes with great effect. He shows that while, in the period he takes for comparison—from the 14th of February to the 5th of March, silver dollars have advanced in value seven *per cent.* against paper-money, gold *yen* have advanced only one-and-a-quarter *per cent.* Whence he takes up his parable against the double standard.

We cannot now anticipate more of what we have ourselves to say next week on the present and future of Japanese Finance; but we have not been able to refrain from welcoming thus a native fellow-student of the 'dismal science' as Mr. Manton Marble dubs Plutonomy. It is indeed a refreshing new sensation to find such pro-

misg, healthy-looking grains of wheat amongst the bushels of chaff of periodical Japanese literature.

EGYPT AN EXAMPLE FOR JAPAN.

JAPAN may find a possible solution of the foreign jurisdiction difficulty by study and observation of the experiment now being tried in Egypt. When writing on the subject of 'mixed courts' a month ago, we purposely abstained from adducing this example for her imitation; because the joint jurisdiction of such a tribunal as Japanese and foreigners in China and Japan have in their minds, when they use the expression 'Mixed Court,' differs completely from that exercised by the New Egyptian Courts:—and because, before describing the good system, it was necessary to expose the errors of the bad. We had also to show that the 'Mixed Court' of Shanghai, often quoted by ignorant people as an example to be followed here, was by no means what they supposed it to be, but a tribunal with civil and criminal jurisdiction over Chinese only, within the settlement, but with no jurisdiction whatever over foreigners; and so, quite incompetent for the work to be done in Japan. We purpose to-day to give a sketch of the judicial reform lately worked out in Egypt, a country in many respects analogously situated to Japan—especially as regards its commercial relations with foreigners;—and to lay before those who have to grapple with a difficult question here, some details of the manner in which it has been surmounted there. We trust that we shall not be misunderstood as advocating the immediate adoption of the Egyptian system. Though there are many analogies in the situations of Egypt and Japan, there are also serious points of difference; and much consideration must be given to the subject, and due thought to detail, before we can mature an opinion worth pronouncing. A very wise man was he, whose words Bacon quotes:—'stay a little, that we may make an end the sooner;'—and Japanese reformers would serve their country better than they do, if they would adopt the motto. The system is on its trial in Egypt; and—so far as it has been worked—it appears to work smoothly and well; but all that we wish to do at present, is to recommend that its progress should be watched from Japan, postponing the question of its importation to a future date.

In Egypt, the imbecility of Consular Courts bore more heavily on the Egyptians than on the strangers within their gates. The very existence of the new kingdom into which Mehemet Ali had expanded his Pashalik depending, as it did under the weaker hands of his successors, on the goodwill of the Christian powers, they had to be conciliated in every possible way, and the so-called jurisdiction of a number of petty Consular tribunals was allowed to grow, until it became an intolerable nuisance, even the Government being compelled, by the diplomatic pressure brought to bear upon it, to suffer equally with its subjects. Japan has not escaped altogether scot-free from Consular and Ministerial 'squeezes;' but when we say that it is estimated that, from 1864 to 1867 inclusive, the Egyptian Government had been mulcted to the tune of nearly Three Millions sterling in satisfaction of 'claims,' it is not a matter of wonder that it should cry out for relief. Accordingly, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nubar Pasha, addressed a Memorandum to the Viceroy, graphically describing how the progress of the country was retarded by the existing system, and suggesting a scheme of reform. This was first submitted to the French Government, whose influence was then paramount in Egypt, but was unfavourably received; and to England, and her Foreign Secretary Lord Stanley (now Lord Derby) belongs the credit of first accepting Nubar Pasha's proposition and, by example and persuasion, procuring its acceptance by the other European powers. And there is little doubt—*par parenthèse*—

that from this act may be traced the gradual but steady growth of English influence in Egypt.

It is needless to say that Nubar Pasha's reforms were not carried through without both delay and modification. It took a couple of years to overcome the initial difficulties; to beat the 'vested interests' and expose the fallacies of the interested 'reports:' but in October, 1869, delegates from the six powers of Austria, France, Great Britain, Italy, Prussia and Russia met in Cairo under the presidency of Nubar Pasha, to sit as a Commission on his scheme. As then submitted, it proposed: that all cases, criminal or civil, in which foreigners of different nationalities, or foreigners and natives together were concerned, should be dealt with by three Courts of First Instance, sitting respectively at Alexandria, Cairo, and Zagazig—a town midway between Cairo and Damietta—and by a Court of Appeal sitting at Alexandria. That a majority of the judges of these Courts should be European lawyers, paid by the Egyptian Government, but not removable by it. That all these Courts should admit Christian evidence; and that they should all have jurisdiction in real property as well as in personal suits. Civil suits between foreigners of the same nationality were left to be decided, as before, by their own Consular Courts.

The Commission amended Nubar Pasha's scheme by proposing the creation of a Third Court—of Revision—above the Court of Appeal; by providing that, though the President of each Court should be a native judge, the real control should be exercised by a foreign vice-president; and,—a very necessary provision—that the law to be administered by the whole judicature should be embodied in a code, based on European legislation, but harmonising in it such rules of Arabic jurisprudence as were not repugnant thereto. So much for the civil side of the Courts: with respect to the Criminal side, the Commission also accepted the principle of Nubar Pasha's scheme, providing that its introduction should be preceded by the promulgation of a Penal Code, fully guaranteed.

The Egyptian Government lost no time in drawing up its civil code; but the Franco-German war stopped the negotiations; and when they were resumed in 1871, the Sublime Porte interfered, jealous of Egypt's acting for herself, but on the pretence that the matter was of imperial, rather than provincial concern. But Great Britain and Russia, resisted this interference, and the Porte had to withdraw its *veto*. Then France put forward a counter-scheme, which would have had the effect of altogether swamping the native element on the bench; and the Austrian Government demurred to the proposed surrender of its criminal jurisdiction. Thus a year was lost in negotiations at Paris and Vienna, but at length, in the autumn of 1872, another Commission met at Pera. The Khedive accepted a useful modification of the Cairo Commission's plan—the suppression of the Court of Revision, and consented that for a year the criminal jurisdiction of the new tribunals should be limited to offences committed against the Courts themselves, or in obstructing their process. This Commission, after due examination of the guarantees offered by the Khedive for the manner in which these limited criminal powers should be exercised, reported favourably; but France, though her delegates had voted for the reform both at Cairo and Pera, still held out, and it was only in 1875,—under pressure of a threat of the Egyptian government to close the old mixed Tildjaret Courts, and thus practically leave French citizens without legal redress against either natives, or other foreigners,—that the question was referred by the French Foreign office to the Assembly and decided in favour of Egypt.

We have dwelt at some length on these particulars; but with an object. We have now to state the existing constitution of the New Egyptian Courts; but it was advisable to show both the Japanese Government and foreign publi-

cists that a similar reform cannot be worked out here in a hurry. It is to be hoped that, with the main outlines of the scheme clearly drawn for them, the Commissioners of Japan and the Treaty Powers need not consume eight years in filling in the details. What is suitable to Japan in the Egyptian system, may be at once adopted; what requires modification may be modified; and where additions are necessary, it will be a facile task to add. 'Tis an easy way to learn shaving, to practise on other people's chins; and from the times when the Egyptians, with touching simplicity, lent their jewels to the wily Israelite on the eve of his departure, and, later, when, instead of seizing the empire of the world, Alexandria submitted to be a mere granary for decaying Rome, these child-like people have always played the victims' part. Nothing less than the crass stupidity of the British bond-holder could ever have given them an advantage over anybody:—Japan, having no money to lend to them, may borrow from them without scruple their new system of juridical reform.

On New Year's Day, 1876, a date also signalized by modern Egypt abandoning the old 'optic calendar in favour of the Gregorian,—Riaz Pasha, the Minister of Justice, who had succeeded to, and vigorously pushed on, the work of Nubar, inaugurated the Tribunal of First Instance at Alexandria. The Courts opened for work on the first of February, and at that date, except as regarded the deferred criminal authority and civil disputes between foreigners of identical nationality, Consular jurisdiction, with all its abuses, came to an end in Egypt. The system which replaced it is this:—

Three Courts of First Instance sit at Alexandria, Cairo and Ismailieh the latter provisionally, to be hereafter removed to Zagazig:—and they divide the country fairly enough between them. The Court at Alexandria is divided into two chambers, with equal jurisdiction, and consists of fourteen judges, of whom six are natives, and eight Europeans; the Cairo bench seats three natives and five foreigners; and at Ismailieh, three native and four foreign judges compose the Court. The nominal Chief-Justices in all three Courts are Egyptians, but foreign vice-presidents actually direct the proceedings. At Alexandria sits a Superior Court of Appeal, in which the foreign element still more preponderates, there being seven foreigners to four natives on the bench of eleven judges, under the Vice-Presidency of Dr. Lapenna, an Austrian lawyer, to whose tact, ability and independent spirit are greatly due the confidence and respect which this Court—and through it, the whole system of reform—have already won from the Egyptian public. The only dissatisfied persons are the nine or ten thousand rascals, the scum of the Levant, who, within and without the Consulates, constitute some ten per cent of the foreign population of Egypt, and who are now finding themselves put to the expense of emigration.

Naturally, the expenses of these Courts are considerable; for though the foreign judges receive but the modest salary of £1,600 a year each, and the natives,—who are young Egyptians who have received legal education abroad at the Khedive's expense—£800 a year; there are necessarily a number of foreign subordinate officials (the natives could not be trusted in these positions) who have to be paid; and £60,000 a year is the price that Egypt has to pay for equal justice. Cheap law—and, during the first judicial year, which only included six months' actual work, £30,000 were received in fees, towards covering cost.

This experiment is to have a life of five years,—up to 1881—before it is finally decided to adopt it permanently; so that Japan has ample opportunity to watch it. And money could not be more judiciously expended by the Japanese Government, than in sending a sufficient number of law students, who have already had preliminary training in England and America, to note cases in the Egyptian Courts; and so, perhaps, to fit themselves to sit in Japanese

Courts, as colleagues of foreign judges, to administer a similar system of jurisdiction in Japan. They will have no lack of opportunities, for the Report of the first judicial year in Egypt states that the Alexandria Court of First Instance heard and decided 1,360 civil and commercial cases out of 2,684 set down, and about 1,500 summary claims: and the Court of Appeal 75 out of 183, besides sitting as a Court of Arbitration on outstanding claims by foreigners against the Government.

A most important and noticeable fact,—in view of the certainly permanent naturalization of these 'Mixed Court' in Egypt—is that the people feel such confidence in them, as compared with their own *mekkemehs*,—where the poor man has so indifferent a chance against the rich,—that a common device of native plaintiffs is to fictitiously cede their right of action to foreigners, so as to take their cases out of the jurisdiction of their own native Courts, and to bring them within that of the new ones. And even the Khedive himself has found it to his advantage to submit to them questions affecting his private estates. There can be no doubt that the confidence thus shown will be fully justified, as the work proceeds; and we cordially recommend Japanese statesmen to watch most carefully the progress of this experiment, in the success of which may very probably be found the solution of a 'burning question' which now greatly vexes them, and which unquestionably retards most seriously the inflow of foreign capital into this country—the thing most needful for its progress and for the rapid development of its latent power.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE strongly commend to the attention of our readers, native and foreign, an article entitled 'Currency Quacks and the Silver Bill,' which we extract to-day from the *North American Review*, decidedly the soundest and ablest periodical publication in the United States, and which ranks with our own *Quarterlies* and the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. It is by Manton Marble, a sound platonist and a brilliant, incisive writer. There is a sentence here and there rather involved, notably one twenty-nine lines long, near the end, without ever a full stop; but Mr. Marble's meaning is not difficult to get at, his arguments are sound, and his article is very valuable. The other half of it we shall publish next week, when we intend to take the occasion of reviewing it, and showing what of it is, and what is not, applicable as warning or example, to foreign commerce in Japan, or to Japanese financiers. What is sauce for the full-grown American goose is by no means fit for the tender young Japanese gosling, which appears to be a fundamental truth very hard of appreciation by the *chefs* who have to look after the latter.

OUR English readers will receive with pleasure our announcement that this Review has been honoured by the German Asiatic Society selecting it as the organ of publication of the valuable papers contributed to it by resident German Orientalists. Translations of such of these as are of general or special interest will appear in our columns from time to time. Next week, for instance, will appear an account of the Battle of Uyeno, which was fought on July 4, 1868, the result of which gave the ancient capital of the Shoguns into the hands of the Imperialist party. We have other papers under translation, and shall thus be able to give an additional value to this, the first volume of our Review.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press*, in its issue of February 27th is good enough to refer in complimentary terms to our article on the present condition of China, published on the 16th ultimo. On one point the writer reminds us of an omission. When stating that, in our opinion, one of the necessary steps to be taken for the salvation of the Empire is the abandonment 'for a time' of the north west provinces now desolated by famine, we left our meaning obscure, in the attempt to compress it into a single phrase. In fact, the essay was, as it stood, too long for a weekly

Review, and—did China and Japan support a Monthly or Quarterly,—the subject would have been more proper for treatment there. Our views on the policy which Chinese statesmen should adopt in the future we reserve; but on this particular point—'abandonment for a time' of the N.W. Provinces—we take this opportunity of explaining that our scheme,—though involving the removal of the population to points where they could get food, instead of persevering in the hopeless and wasteful task of trying to carry food to them,—would provide for the retention of empire over the depopulated country by a chain of fortified and garrisoned posts, by which it should be held in precisely the same way as Russia holds her recent conquests in Central Asia, and indeed in Siberia.

WE attempt to lighten the rather 'heavy' character of this number of the *Japan Times* by inserting part of our Scotch correspondent's paper on 'Curling.' The other half of it we must hold over till next week; and as it has considerably out-grown the dimensions of a 'Note,' we give it a more prominent position in our columns. We have to apologize to the author and our readers for delaying its publication till now; when 'the winter is past . . . the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing is come and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.' It would have read with more gusto before a sea-coal fire and over a glass of hot toddy; but circumstances control all mortals, and editors of newspapers are not exempt from the operation of the law, that

'The best laid plans o'mice an' men,—gang aft aye.'

WE have to acknowledge the obligation we are under to Dr. J. C. McCoan, the author of 'Egypt as it is'—a most interesting book, just published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter and Galpin, of London and New York,—for the material from which we have constructed the article, 'Egypt an Example to Japan,' which occupies our leading columns to-day. Englishmen specially are now greatly interested in the future of Egypt, and to all who wish to make themselves acquainted with the resources, recently developed; the government, recently reformed; and the climate and general conditions of the country, so greatly improved of late years under the comparatively wise rule of Mehemet Ali and his successors;—we cordially recommend Mr. McCoan's book.

THE news from Europe this week has lost not a whit of its interest: and assurance doubly strong is given to us by the telegrams that Russia has outwitted Europe, as she has often done before. She has made a separate peace with Turkey, in defiance of the protest of the other Powers whose signatures were attached to the Treaty of Paris. This, as we explained in our preliminary article on 'Treaty Revision' the week before last, when diagnosing the several kinds of Treaties, she has a perfect right to do, if she feels strong enough. She tore up the Treaty of Paris in 1870. But whether the other Powers will not force her to retreat to the old ground, and to sign another Treaty of very similar character to that of 1856 remains to be seen. This depends upon the other Powers' estimates of their strength, and on the combinations and alliances which may be made. One thing is very certain, it appears to us here: that England, at least, is prepared to fight, if Russia will not draw back.

We are committing the same old error of delaying our blow: during all these wasted weeks of diplomacy, Russia has time to recruit her wasted battalions, to organize and bring up her reserves; to strengthen herself in the positions she has gained and so to intrigue with Germany and Austria as perhaps to secure herself from a flank attack. And Russia is committing her old error of mistaking the clamour of a noisy party for the voice of the English people, of undervaluing the warmth of the English spirit, which burns long with a dull red glow, till it suddenly bursts into a devouring flame; and of altogether mistaking the relative strengths of the people's will and the personal inclinations and prejudices of the Court. This is, unhappily for its conductor and his fellow-workers, a journal condemned to the consideration of the petty politics of an obscure Oriental State, and from the larger and nobler field of European strife we are shut out; but even our small trade interests are affected

by the threatening war of giants, and such relief to our souls as can be got from a weekly note on the situation at home ought not to be grudged to us.

REVIEW.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY FOR 1876-77.

READERS of Siebold and Kaempfer, who are also students of Japanese, and therefore acquainted with the difficulties which beset the enquirer at every step in his search after a knowledge of this country and its people, are apt at first sight, and without due consideration, to contemplate with admiration and despair, the enormous stores of information which those authors were able to collect. Kaempfer spent, we believe, only about two years in this country, and yet to this day his work is referred to as a repertory of useful, and for the most part correct, knowledge of things Japanese. But the modern enquirer may solace himself with the reflection that the opportunities for observation of the solitary student of those days were limited to Deshima, which was literally a prison, and the yearly journey to Yedo; whilst in our more favoured times, students have every opportunity for examining any native subject to which they may be led, either by circumstances, or by the bent of their own minds. Moreover, the Asiatic Societies of Japan, both English and German, are at hand, and readily undertake to discuss and publish any suitable paper written by one of their members. It is hardly too much to say that more correct and valuable information is in this way presented to the public in the course of a few years, than in all Kaempfer's or Siebold's ponderous tomes.

The German Asiatic Society has done good work in this way since its foundation a few years ago; and in the quality of the papers read, as well as in the able manner in which they have been discussed, it is worthy to claim an equal place with its more favoured sister-institution, in the task of disseminating in the Far East, as well as at home, a fuller and more accurate knowledge of this remarkable country. The truth of these remarks will be abundantly evident to any one who glances over the latest number of the "Mittheilungen" or Transactions of this Society.

A paper by Mr. Gebauer on the advances which the Japanese have made since the Revolution in their marriage laws, opens the number; and the writer seems to us to have got at the root of the difference between the marriage tie in Japan and in western countries, when he says that marriage in the latter was always regulated by the State or by the Church, while in Japan it was regarded entirely as a private affair, in which the government interfered, only when it saw its policy threatened. The paper passes under review the various laws lately made for regulating marriage.

The chief of these are, 11°, the law of January 4th, 1870, by which persons about to marry are required previously to obtain permission from the authorities, and which makes the legality of a marriage dependent on this permission being granted. Mr. Gebauer observes on this law that from this moment marriage lost its character of a private institution in Japan. 2°, the law of May 14th, 1873, by which the right of the husband to force the wife against her will to continue with him in the wedded state is taken away, and jurisdiction in divorce cases is given to certain courts. The preamble to this decree sets out the evils of the old system in the following terms:—"There is an immoral custom widely prevalent among the people, by which a husband refuses to listen to the request of his wife for a dissolution of their marriage on the ground of discord, or from some other cause which renders it impossible for them to live together. He lives with a concubine himself, and declines for years to agree to a divorce. Meantime the wife, once married, cannot marry a second time, unless the husband grant a separation; her prospects disappear with increasing years, and thus the whole purpose of her life is missed, and she is placed in a most deplorable situation." A decree supplementary to this was issued, on the 17th December 1874 forbidding separations without previous reference to the courts, and divorce in this country is now a judicial act quite as much as in England.

The tendency of the legislation in the matter of breaches of the marriage contract is also to curtail the power of the husband. Formerly he could dictate a peculiar punishment called *mamehiroi* or beangleaning, on his wife and her paramour. This consisted in exhibiting the offenders in the streets, their only garment being a small paper apron. An official who went in front of them scattered a certain quantity of beans on the wayside which they were forced to collect again in exactly the same quantity. It is only very lately that this barbarous custom has been stopped.

Mr. Kempermann is well known as one of the most accomplished Japanese scholars of the present day, and his paper on the "Kami yo no Moji" or letters of the divine period, will be read with much interest. Notwithstanding his high reputation, and the great care which Mr. Kempermann has bestowed on this paper, we venture to doubt whether his conclusion will be accepted without demur by scholars. He endeavours to show that these letters were the sacred characters used by a people who inhabited the west of Japan and the south of Corea, from whom the Japanese of our day are descended, while a greater or less portion of them is to be found among the present Coreans. Shinto scholars maintain, that these letters were a purely Japanese product, and were carried thence to Corea; while the Buddhists contend that Corea was their birthplace. We find it difficult to understand why the Japanese should give up an alphabet so scientific as the Corean is said to be, for their present unscientific and inadequate syllabaries. Moreover Mr. Kempermann only throws the period of the discussion back into a remote antiquity, when, according to him, the Japanese and Coreans were one people. However this may be, his paper is the most valuable contribution yet published on the subject, and perhaps other foreign scholars may investigate further on the lines he has so ably laid down.

Herr Greoven follows with a paper on the "Uji." This is a generic name applied by the Japanese to larvae and worms which derive their sustenance from putrefying bodies; but the writer of this paper confines himself to that form of maggot which feeds chiefly on the silk-worm. This is a paper of great interest to the mercantile community here, and we trust shortly to be able to present them with a translation of it. We have not space to do more than mention Dr. Lange's interesting account of the battle of Ueno in 1868, which placed the Capital of the Shōgun in the hands of the Imperialists, and virtually closed the Civil war. The paper is chiefly a translation, with explanatory notes, of the diary of a prisoner who spent his enforced leisure in writing what he had seen, before and during the battle:—and this we also purpose to translate.

A short note on the flora of Chiuzenji Lake near Nikko, and reports of the discussions on the papers, conclude a number of which the members of the German Asiatic Society have reason to be proud, and on which we heartily congratulate them.

CURLING.

Grey morning 'treads on the skirts of Night,' but the sun seems unwilling to rise. The snow lies thick on all the landscape. The frost, during the night, has been so sharp, that 'the owl, for all his feathers, was a cold' and his wierd, ghostly cry has not been heard. Hungry he must have been:—he went to his perch in the old ivied tower supperless; for the young rabbits lay close in their burrows, secure from everything but the bloodthirsty ferret; the field-mice were fast asleep, safe and warm under the thick fleecy blanket of the snow; and the robin, the chaffinch, the sparrow and the oxeye, early yesterday afternoon took refuge from the biting cold in the innermost recesses of the hollies. And in his cheerless cell he sits still, 'nursing his five wits'—and blinking at the dawn, through the veil of frosted gossamer that some eccentric spider has spun across his porch. Heavy lies the snow on the masses of ivy above him, heavy on the rough boles of the elms, heavy on the hardy laurels and arbutus and clumps of *arbor vite* in my lady's flower-garden. The grand old silver fir, on the lawn before the hall door, is so snow-laden that even his hundred stalwart arms—sylvan Briareus that he is—droop till the lowermost touch the ground. But what a splendid warm nook for the home-fed pet pheasants they make;—mark that splendid old cock running in from the rhododendron shrubbery to the corn box at the foot of the tree! and see, leading to it in all directions, the numberless light

footprints of his friends and relations, making an intricate lace-like tracery, broken only by the deeper spots left by the feet of some benighted hare! Not a breath of wind has stirred the trees for many hours, and every branch of oak, or elm, or feathery larch, each twig of the aspen and the lady birch, all the lingering red-brown leaves on the beech hedges, obstinate patriarchs who refuse to depart until they see their successors in the spring,—each and all of these carry their share of snow crystals, only waiting the touch of that sluggish, red-faced sun that is so slowly coming up through the brown mist on the horizon, to flash into the glittering silver and the rainbow-coloured jewels of the forests of fairy land.

It is not easy to convey to the minds, or, rather, to the palates, of those unfortunate Southrons who have never luxuriated in the reality,—the idea of breakfast in an old Scotch manor-house. A borderer, who hails, from 'Warkworth or Naworth, or merry Carlisle' counts cousins with Scots, or at least feels such sympathy as arises from a common ancestral taste for other men's beeves, and appreciates the meal;—but the sensation is denied to all born south of Tees. Prayers are over; the news of the night are told; we have heard of the sheep which have kept themselves alive in the snowdrift by crowding together, and treading out for themselves a haven in the wide sea of white; of the solitary wether smooored within a few yards of safety. Forester and gamekeeper have made their reports, and the hint that each gives:—"that the 'souter' threeps that there'll be curlin' the day on Balyarroch, and that the ice'll carry fine" are not lost upon the Laird. The thermometer outside the window, registering 16° Fahrenheit, confirms the thought, born from their wistful looks, that to hear "the stanes ringin'" will be pleasanter to his dependents than ploughing through the snow after him, with game bag or blazing hatchet. So the fiat goes forth, for a holiday for the sons of the house and their tutor, and we set to in high glee and with keen appetite, at the kippered salmon, and the grouse pie, the scones and apricot jam—nor neglect those wholesome 'parritch' which the warm new milk makes so especially grateful. Then, with due care to one's shoeing, and with a warm 'a' 'oo' plaidie thrown right shepherd's fashion, round shoulders and back, (for the wind may get up, and on Balyarroch there is but little cover) we sally out. Heh! what a scatter among the pheasants from under the old silver-fir, as the heavy hall door closes behind us with a report that almost justifies their fright, it sounds so like a gunshot in the still morning air. And away goes Topsy after them—who really ought to know better—in pure doggish fun and really 'animal' spirits, till she is brought up standing, wrong side up, by going tail over head in a rabbit hole; when she picks herself up and comes to heel, shaking her wise old head at her own absurdity. And so we push on, down the west avenue, through snow up to our ankles, but so crisp and dry that it falls off highlow and stocking like dust. And now, above the coppery-coloured coverlet beneath which he has been a 'lig-a-bed' so long, peeps the sleepy red face of the sluggish sun. Ten minutes more—and he wakes up for the day; the sky loses its greyness, and assumes a pure, bright blue, which gives a doubled beauty to the scene. The frosted silver of the trees begins first to glitter, then to sparkle with prismatic colour; the first faint, doubtful, 'cheep, cheep' of some impudent sparrow is heard, questioning where he can find a breakfast; and as we leap the dyke, and take the short cut through the young larch plantation, and drop over the sunk fence into the Drumclog turnips,—the 'carruck, carruck, carruck' of the startled pheasant, as he settles into his flight, and sails away towards the Tay, and the whirr of the covey that rises almost at our feet, tell us that we might have had a good enough day's sport, had we been intent to carry the gun, instead of the broom.

Well—a stout heart to a steep brae soon takes us up to the solitary tarn, high among the eternal hills, which—without apparent feeders or outlet—save one little burn, now closed by a portcullis of icicles,—is a green, shallow, bog in summer, where the cows love to cool their feet; but a miniature lake in winter, six or seven feet deep, fed doubtless, by some undiscovered spring; a wonder to the simple folk in the scattered hamlets in the hollows of the surrounding hills.

At its far end, as we rise the last steep bit of the path,

we descry a cluster of men round the door of the little bothy where the curling stones are kept, and one by one, as we near the group, we recognize the Minister, a sound divine of the old school and a keen curler yet, in spite of the many winters that have frosted his pow; and the 'Souter,' who won the medal last year, and Birkies and Gowansbrae and Broomielands (for farmers are better known by the names of their farms in these parts, than by those given them by their own godfathers and godmothers) and others enough to make, with ourselves, two full rinks. They have only been waiting for our party, evidently—our advent announced by the gamekeeper and the forester—for as we near the little lock, they move across the ice to greet us. The rinks are ready, clean swept, measuring circles drawn, tees up, hog-line and roaring-line scored, stones lying in order by the cramps, and a bundle of neatly made brooms handy by to choose from. We divide into two parties of eight: in ours—the Laird and the Minister, the Souter, Broomielands and the grocer from Normanstoun, Andrew the forester, the tutor and the young Master of Malcolmslaw. The Souter and Andy of course are 'skips'—captains of the sides—and 'short cuts' and 'long cuts' drawn from a handful of broom, adjudge to each his sides. The Souter gets the Minister, Broomielands and the youngster—Andy the Laird, the tutor, and the grocer: a fair enough division; for the tutor, being an Englishman, counts for little better than the boy, while the Minister has decidedly the whiphand of the Laird.

And here must be interpolated a little description and technology. The best game is of four on a side; though six and eight a side are often played. The first player plants himself on the roughened iron cramp-plate, with his left foot advanced and pointing straight towards the 'tee' which, as already explained, * is a wooden mark

* So long a time has elapsed since this explanation was given, that the game now to be described could hardly be made intelligible, without reference to it. For the convenience of our readers we therefore repeat it, taking the opportunity to correct one or two errors in the details of measurement.

"Curling is a game played upon ice, and is peculiar to Scotland, or rather to Scotchmen; for whithersoever Scotchmen emigrate, and whither do they not?—if ice is attainable, there Curling may be had. As good a short description as can be given of it is:—that it is the good old English game of bowls played upon ice, with stones instead of wooden bowls, with a fixed, instead of a movable 'jack' and with the additional scenic advantage that a 'bias' can be given to the stone to either side, and modified at the will of the curler, by his method of delivery; instead of the player having to depend, as in bowls, upon the mere dead 'bias' of lead put into his bowl by the maker. But some there may be so sunk in ignorance as not to know 'bowls,' except in its cramped, degenerate form in a 'bowling alley'—which is quite another thing; so a more detailed description of Curling may be deemed desirable.

"To give it then: an expanse of ice, some sixty yards by six, is first swept clear of snow; and this should be carefully done, and so as to leave no uneven little lumps detached from boot-heels, which interfere with the passage of the curling stones. It is convenient to bank the snow a little at each end. On this 'rink,' at two spots, one at each end of it, and forty-two yards apart, the point of one leg of a large pair of wooden compasses. (such as sergeants use when drilling 'awkward squads' to measure the men's steps) is set and with the other point are described two or three concentric circles, the inner a yard, the outer seven yards in diameter. These circles are for convenience of measuring. In the centre of each circle is set up a small wooden pin, like an exaggerated chess pawn, called the 'tee.' The length of the rink may be shortened by mutual agreement, when the ice is not good enough to enable the stones to be driven conveniently the full distance of forty-two yards. One sixth of the distance, (in a full rink, seven yards from the 'tee') down towards the centre of the 'rink' is drawn a line across it, called the 'hog line.' All stones failing to clear this are called 'hogs,' are removed from the rink, and do not count. All which overpass the 'tee' by seven yards, so as to go outside of the outer circle, are called 'roarers,' and equally do not count to their side. These circles and line being drawn, the 'rink' is ready for use. The implements required are:—1°, for each player, two 'curling-stones' which weigh from thirty to fifty pounds each, which are very like a flattish cheese in shape, (exactly like the 'cheeses' we used to make out of marbles when schoolboys) and which are, for choice, made from pieces of Ailsa Craig, but which may be made from any granite or other stone which will take a high polish. There are as many fashions in curling stones as there are in coats; and there are dandies in each department: but when the writer last played curling, the latest approach to perfection was an Ailsa Craig stone, with the slightest, hardly perceptible departure from the absolute plan; in the direction of the sphere applied to the bottom of the stone. In the hand of a 'deacon of the craft,' such a model could be propelled with greater certainty and power to its mark, than one resting on a base which was absolutely flat. The means of propulsion is by a handle which rises from the upper face of the cheese, so shaped and placed that, when grasped, the knuckles of your fingers almost touch the stone. 2°, for each player a broom, made of gorse, the use of which is to sweep from before an advancing stone any small particles of snow or crushed ice which might stop its way:—and 3°, a couple of 'cramp-plates,' pieces of thin roughened iron, on which the players stand when delivering their stones. These, I believe have now altogether superseded the old 'cramps' or 'sparrow hills' which used to be fixed upon the players' boots. In an adjacent hut, or on the pile of gorse or broom, repose a basket of oatcake, with a lass without a foot, and a fat 'stone bottle of whisky;—and the rink is ready for the curlers.

like a small nine pin, forty two yards away. (When the ice is dull, this distance is shortened, by consent.) He lifts his stone just high enough from the ice to clear it, and with arm and wrist swinging in a straight line from the shoulder, delivers it as smoothly and quietly as possible towards the tee. His object is that the stone should end its journey just short of this mark, and the precision is remarkable with which some curlers can lay a stone within a foot of the spot indicated by the 'skip's' broom. For the skip's place is at the other end of the rink, the remaining two players being stationed, one at the hog-line, one a few yards in advance of the first player. Their duty, and the judgment of the skip, now come into play. The stone has been delivered, and evidently with too little 'vim,' for it slackens fast as it approaches the 'hog-line.' 'Broomielands' has made too great allowance for the keenness of the ice. 'Soup, soup! soup!' shouts the Souter:—'Soup, laddie! soup Minister, or she'll no win o'er!!' Young Malcolmswallow sweeps away with a will in front of the advancing stone, the old Minister more dexterously, but with less animation, aids him, and the stone just clears the hog line by about nine inches, greatly to the delight of the boy. An awkward customer that stone, perhaps as good for its side as though it had been closer up, for lying just off the centre line to the left, it is difficult to pass. But the Grocer is equal to the emergency and, profiting by Broomielands' trial of the ice, he plays a really fine stone, passing the first by about a stone's width, and resting a couple of yards from the tee, a little beyond it and on the right. Eight feet back, and it would have been a perfect cast: but as it is, he gets due praise from his party. Now Broomielands poises his portly form again on the cramp iron, to play his second stone, but the Souter lifts a warning hand. This craves deliberation. Can he trust Broomielands to play a tee stone? If he falls short again, he may guard the well-placed grocer. Or shall he order Broomielands' first stone to be advanced a stage? He decides on this as the most prudent course. 'Noo, Broomie, ye'll just come roking up on your ain back! Cannily noo! . . . Eh, mon, ye're a deacon—that's just the right hare's fut . . . dinna soup, laddie, dinna soup'—as the well-played stone delivered with precision, in almost the exact track of the first, strikes it and drives it forward to a point short of the tee, but nearer to it than the grocer's.

But not striking it exactly full, the second stone swerves a trifle to the left and the first, driven up, lies full in view from the cramp iron, without a guard. The Grocer's work is therefore clear: he must drive out the successful stone. And this he does, but catching it on the edge, the object stone and his own both glide out to each side of the tee at a widely open angle,—making both of them 'roarers,' which don't count,—and the Minister has a clear field for the shot he is best at, placing a tee stone. He and the Laird move down the rink, and their places are taken by the farmer and the grocer. The Minister's turn—and the Souter silently places his broom just in front of the tee. No need to give instructions to that pillar of the Kirk. Ah-h, a splendid stone! the old man, with hardly an apparently effort, just lays it so truly on the ice and with such judgment of the pace that, without a touch of the broom, it quietly glides up to within eighteen inches of the tee. Magnificent! Andy the Forester looks serious. If the Laird doesn't 'see out' the Minister, the old man will guard with his second stone, to a dead certainty, and the game will become complicated. 'Noo, Sir, ye ken what ye're to dae—ye'll just crack an egg on the Minister's back! . . . Gude . . . agudeline . . . eh—soup! men—soup, soup!! she's nae enough ponther, soup her!! soup!!' But all the sweeping is of no avail, the Laird's stone lies just too short and a little off. Then the Minister places his second stone a perfect guard for his first about two yards over the hog line. This the Laird sends 'roarin' with his vigorously played second; but alas! he hits it too truly in the centre, and his own remains, equally guarding the winning stone. The game looks bad for Andy's side; the tutor can't be depended on, and the others have an extra shot. But no game's lost till it's won. The young heir throws away the extra shot, sending his prettily ornamented little five-and-twenty pounder singing away through the crowd, half-way up the snow bank at the end of the rink (on keen ice like this there's no keeping back a light stone) and the tutor suc-

ceeds in just touching the Laird's second stone on the left, so as to make it a guard for his first, which now lies next best to the Minister's, and leaves the way open to 'see' that divine 'oot.' But young Malcolmswallow, steadied by the failure of his first effort, and encouraged by the Souter's "Noo, ma mannie, cannily, cannily" just drops his second over the hog line to fill the vacant guard. This the tutor fails to hit away; and then the Souter and Andy, the two skips, march down the rink together to play the concluding and decisive stones, leaving the Minister and the Laird at the 'skip-end,' with whispered instructions, to mark the points they mean to aim for and to direct the 'souping.' This is the turning point of the first round, and we take up our positions in breathless silence.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 8th.

THE first mail arrival we have to record since our last issue is the Pacific Mail S. S. *City of Tokio*, Captain Maury, which arrived here on Sunday last. She left San Francisco on the 7th ulto. and so has made a tolerably fast passage for this time of the year, she leaves for Hongkong on Sunday next, her long stay in port being on account of her loading rice for China. Other Mail arrivals are the *Malacca* which arrived on Thursday afternoon, two days before her due date, bringing English Mails of the 28th January, and the *Kokonoye Maru*, which arrived in harbour this morning from Shanghai and way ports with the regular weekly mail. We understand that she is a very good steamer to travel in, and if kept on the service will very likely become the favourite passenger boat, as she is built of iron and very strong of outward mails the *Sunda* left on Tuesday morning last, the 5th instant, carrying the homeward mail due in London via Brindisi April 22nd, and the *Nagoya Maru* with the usual Shanghai mail left on the following day.

The *Volga* with the French Mail of the 27th January left Hongkong for this port yesterday at 6 p.m. and may be looked for about this day week. The *Gaelic* left San Francisco on the 21st ultimo and *China* on the 4th instant.

The most prominent social event of the week has certainly been the issue of the programme for the Race Meeting on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of May. We had intended to have discussed this in full in other columns, but are obliged to postpone our notes upon it until next week. Training, we remark, has already commenced.

A case of the Japanese Government, represented by Mr. Kirkwood, against Messrs. Cope and Mitchell, has been occupying a good deal of attention during the week. The suit was brought for the recovery of a strip of land, now incorporated into Mr. Cope's lot No. 95, which, it was contended, in remote ages, was a road or path between that lot and the next. To the best of the writer's recollection, there certainly must have been a path there, some time to 1863, for the tradition was then current; but it led no where in particular; for the then unfilled swamp came right up to the palings of the lots abutting on what is now the Homura Road, and out of the back windows of the bungalows we used to shoot wild ducks. There surely should be a 'statute of limitations' or its equivalent, to govern cases of this sort: and so the Jury apparently thought, for, after sitting up till two this morning, they answered a long string of questions put to them by Mr. Wilkinson in such a manner as practically to carry a verdict for the defendant. We shall report the case in due course in a more formal manner.

We agree most cordially with our evening contemporaries in condemning the action of the Hospital Committee in proposing to cut down the salaries of the medical men attending the General Hospital. They are ridiculously small and inadequate as it is, and should be increased, though, in these hard times, it is difficult to suggest any means of doing it. We cannot help making the re-

mark that the two or three thousand dollars lately sent away to buy rice for people who will never get it, would have been charity well-bestowed at home, if given to our own Hospital; and the proceeds of the Entertainment soon to be given in the Gaiety Theatre, announced to be for the benefit of the China Famine Relief Fund, might with great propriety be applied here, where it will be much more usefully spent. Not a grain of rice can reach the really famine struck districts where the people are dying; it is all stolen on its way through the fringe of country surrounding them, where the people are merely badly off.

Appropos of the theatre; We rejoice with exceeding joy to notice that next Wednesday we are again to have the pleasure of hearing *Cox and Box*. The pleasure with which one listens to this charming little trifle is perennial. *Trial by Jury*, to be given by the Choral Society, is also in full rehearsal; the music of this is by no means so good as that of Mr. Sullivan's other piece; but the fun of the situation is immense. It wants more acting, by far, than singing; and drilling the corps in the stage business must be no sinecure. If this be not perfectly done, the piece will fall absolutely flat.

A fire which would have done immense damage on a windy night occurred on the evening of the 4th inst., and burnt down a few of the nests of vermin in the Homura district. The circumstances were fully reported in the daily papers and are totally uninteresting. But indeed, nothing of any interest has happened during the week, and our only excitement has been the waiting and watching for European telegrams which we don't get.

We have elsewhere referred to one of our extracts published this week "Currency Quacks and the Silver Bill." It is a pretty heavy subject: and we think those of our readers who do not care about silver except in the form of small change, will thank us for relieving its weight by the contrast of Mr. Gilead P. Beck's experiences as an Editor. This gentleman is a principal character in 'The Golden Butterfly' a most amusing novel lately published in *The World*, and by the authors of 'Ready-money Mortiboy, a capital book which made a sensation some ten years ago. We see that they are now publishing another in the *Graphic*;—'Celia's Arbour,' which promises to be as interesting as either of the other works we have named. By the way, they have conferred a benefit on posterity by rescuing from oblivion the entire text of the following beautiful lyric; which is sung to one of those melodies proscribed, we believe, by the Government in Ireland, at the time of the Fenian scare:—

'Tis O! for a gay and a gallant bark,
A brisk and a lively breeze,
A bully crew and a captain too,
To carry me o'er the seas.
To carry me o'er the seas, my boys,
To my own true love so gay,
For she's taking of a trip
In a Government ship,
Ten thousand miles away!
Then blow, ye winds, heigho!
For a roaming we will go,
I'll stay no more on England's shore;
Then let the music play,
For I'm off by the morning train,
Across the raging main,
I'm on the rove to my own true love
Ten thousand miles away!

My true love she was beautiful,
My true love she was fair,
Her eyes were blue as the violets true,
And golden was her hair;
And golden was her hair, my boys,
But while I sing this lay
She's doing of the grand
In a distant land
Ten thousand miles away.

The sun may shine through a London fog,
The Thames run bright and clear,
The ocean brine may turn to wine
Ere I forget my dear;
Ere I forget my dear, my boys,
The landlord his quarter day,
For I never can forget
My own dear pet,
Ten thousand miles away.

Oh dark and dismal was the day
When last I saw my Meg,
She'd a Government band around each hand,
Another one round each leg;
Another one round each leg, my boys,
Dressed all in a suit of grey,
"My love," said she,
"Remember me;
Ten thousand miles away."

Oh! would I were a bo's'n tight,
Or e'en a bombardier;
I'd hurry afloat in an open boat,
And to my true love steer.
And to my true love steer, my boys,
Where the dancing dolphins play,
And the shrimps and the sharks
Are a having of their larks
Ten thousand miles away.
Then blow, ye winds, heigho!
For a roaming we will go,
I'll stay no more on England's shore;
Then let the music play,
For I'm off by the morning train
Across the raging main,
I'm on the rove to my own true love
Ten thousand miles away!

It is because these blossoms are not always caught as they fall, that they get trampled into the mud of common-place, prosaic life and are forgotten. There are some half-remembered strains—chiefly of a humorous cast—which we would give anything to recover!—worlds, had we a planetary system to dispose of, with a reserve of undiscovered asteroids! Inscription of his name, for instance, on the free list of this Review for ever, awaits the fortunate man who can supply our common-place book with the lost lines of that poem of which we only possess this charming fragment:—

"On Egypt's banks, contagious to the Nile,
Where Pharaoh's daughter washed herself in style,
And ran upon the shore to dry her lilywhite skin—
She struck her foot against the basket, Moses in:
And, turning round with a bewitching smile,
Said 'which of you young ladies owns this child?'"

or who can fill up the *lacunae* in the existing, mutilated versions of 'Jack Robinson,'—'Oh, poor Robinson Crusoe,'—'Old Rose is dead, that good old man,'—and half-a-dozen others of the really comic songs which our grand-fathers and fathers used to sing, when they dined at three o'clock and had heads that could stand port wine? Ye Gods! the puny youngsters of this generation have no conception of what manner of men were those who stood with their backs to the wall, defending the life of Europe against the first Napoleon! No—all this sort of thing is—'aw-vulgaw'—'bad form.'—'Gin and polly' and lawn tennis have taken the place of cakes and ale, and 'Champagne Charlie' and 'Tommy, make room for your uncle' are warbled in drawing-rooms, to chase hence 'loathed melancholy' instead of 'Drink to me only with thine eyes,'—'the Thorn,'—or 'Tell me, Shepherds have ye seen.'

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 1. Can any experienced woodman, or analytical chemist, favour the community with a disquisition upon charcoal? Is there any method of getting rid of the free carbonic acid gas which rises from it—before burning, or of any portion of the same? Do different woods give off different volumes of vapour, and if so, which is the safest to use in a bath room? (*Unanswered.*)

P.S.—Will *nobody* answer this or must our contributors' valuable lives continue to remain in peril?

J. T.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such? I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan. (*In process of answer.*)

B. H.

Qy. 5. Dwellings on the Bluff are much more susceptible to the motion of the earthquake wave, than those on the Settlement. Why so? is the object of this Query. One would think that, considering the magnitude of the causes at work, the few feet of elevation of the Bluff from the Settlement would make no difference at all in the perceptible motion of an earthquake; for the same reason it would appear childish to suggest that the weight of the various constructions on the Settlement would have the effect of steadying, as it were, the earth's crust; however

it is a fruitful matter for conjecture, though by no means a pleasant one.

JISHIN.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese?

(Unanswered.)

Z.

NOTES.

NOTE TO QUERY 5. (Comparative severity of earthquakes on the Bluff and in the Settlement.) Regarding the query why dwelling houses on the Bluff are more susceptible to the shock of an earthquake than those situated on the settlement; to an unscientific mind the reason appears to be self-evident, and to be simply this:—the Bluff land is firm and condensed, and receives the shock with resistance, by virtue of its solidity, to a considerable depth. The Settlement is notoriously soft and elastic, being of modern formation; and the motion imparted by the earthquake wave must therefore filter through it with less severity. There cannot possibly be any other organic chasm in this unhappy settlement.

X. Y. Z.

[The following Note relating to the paper money of the former *Han* is intended as a contribution to the mass of information on ancient Japanese currency accumulating in the 'Notes and Queries' of this Review. The question is one of great interest, and wide importance, as bearing upon the present financial position of Japan; and these items are therefore offered, in the hope that they may prove of some slight utility to any student who may hereafter be tempted to take up the subject at greater length.]

THE FORMER HAN PAPER-MONEY.

OUR readers are no doubt aware that when the various *Han* restored their fiefs and registers to the Central Government at the close of the Revolutionary War of 1868-69, the Government also took over the debts contracted by those *Han*. Amongst these, by far the most important liability was the recall of the paper-money issued by the territorial nobles. Each *daimiō*, as he found himself in need of funds, had, until the period mentioned, been accustomed to put into circulation *kinsatsu* for different amounts. The rule laid down was that no *daimiō* should act thus unless by the special permission of the old *Shōgunate*, and it was therefore required that a full report should be furnished beforehand by him, stating the total amount of paper-money proposed to be put into circulation, the different denominations or values of the several notes, and sundry other particulars. If permission were then granted, the notes were issued, and passed current in that single *Han*. The grave disadvantage arising from the existence, at one and the same time, of innumerable different issues of paper-money throughout the Empire—none of which could pass current in other *Han* than the one in which they were manufactured—prompted the Government to call them in, and to issue, instead, their own notes, which should pass as coin in every part of the country. This scheme being put into operation, certain places were appointed in Yedo, where the old *Han* notes were publicly destroyed by fire, minute record being kept of their values and of the *Han* to which they belonged. At the then existing *Mimbushō*, or Department of the Interior, some few specimens of these notes were, however, preserved as curiosities, and several collections were arranged, in as nearly complete a condition as was possible under the circumstances. These collections have now become exceedingly valuable, and it may perhaps prove of interest to our readers to be placed in possession of a few notes regarding one of them, presented several years ago to a foreigner residing in Yedo.

This collection consists of no less than eight hundred and thirty six notes, issued by one hundred and fourteen different *Han*, thus giving an average of seven to each *Han*. Whether these figures represent the whole issue is, of course, open to considerable doubt, but they may yet be taken as being tolerably correct. The Toba *Han* (province of Shima) possessed notes of but one amount, while the Kagoshima *Han* (Satsuma) issued the large number of

nineteen notes of different denominations. The values are, in most cases, written in *cash*, but *monmé*, the *bu* and its fractions, and *riyō* are also used. The largest note is for 1,000 *mé*, equivalent to about 16 *riyō*, 2½ *bu*, and was issued by the Katsuyama *Han* (Echizen), and the smallest denomination is 2 *cash*, for which sum notes were put into circulation by the Asaō (Bitchū) and Miyadzu (Tango) *Han*. In some places, however, various articles of produce and manufacture were used in the stead of money. Thus, in the *Han* of Komono (Isé), Okazaki (Mikawa), and Obama (Wakasa) notes were issued for different quantities of rice varying from 5 *gō* to 4 *to*. But in this respect the Kanō *Han* (Mino) affords the most curious specimens: its notes were but five in number, and are for 2 umbrella rings, 3 ditto., 1 umbrella, 2 ditto., and 15 *monmé* weight of silk thread, respectively. In that province umbrellas were a staple article of manufacture, and the rings to which allusion is made are the wooden rings which work up and down the handle and to which the ribs are attached.

The earliest date marked on the notes is the period Kiōhō (1716-1736), during which time some were issued by the *Han* of Kishiwata (Settsu), Kambé (Isé), Kashiwabara and Sonobé (both in Tamba), Tottori (Inaba), Akō (Harima), Tsuyama (Mimasaka), Tokushima (Awa), and Marugamé (Sanuki). Large numbers are undated; and some are marked with the month only, without the year. The latest date is during the present period of Meiji, which commenced in 1868.

The paper used in the manufacture of these notes appears to have been similar to the tough fibrous article to be found in the Government *kinsatsu* of the last issue but one. The most common colour is a light grey-brown, but a few are almost white, while others are green, deep orange, and even crimson. The lettering and the patterns on the face and back are marked with black ink. One set of twelve notes is very tastefully decorated with representations of the signs of the zodiac; and on others are engravings of the god of wealth, or of storks, junks, plants, &c. The general shape is oblong, but the size varies considerably in different *Han*. Some of the notes, particularly those for the smaller amounts, are exceedingly narrow (the breadth in some cases being only about ¾ inch) but those for higher denominations are as a rule about three times that size. The length is about 6 inches, on an average. The face of the note is commonly divided into two portions, each surrounded by a border of various designs. In the upper space is marked the value, and in the lower the name of the *Han*. On the back are inscribed characters, differing widely in meaning. In some cases they record the date, in others the proportion borne by the value of the note in question to that of the others issued by the same *Han*. As might be expected, many of these *kinsatsu* are so worn and otherwise defaced as to be hardly legible, and it is a matter for wonder that any of them should have passed through the wear and tear of more than a century back in such a manner as to be still in tolerable preservation.

The collection, as a whole, is very valuable and intensely interesting, although it is of course impossible, in mere written description, to do more than touch upon the principal points that attract attention upon an examination of these old relics of the feudal system in Japan.

SHOSEI.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter X. THE ENVOY'S BODY-GUARD.

AFTER Seta Kamon's departure, Hidetsugu remained a long time seated in the Tea Pavilion, scarcely moving from the position in which his visitor had left him. He was glad to be alone, not because he wished to think, but rather indeed to avoid the necessity for thought. It was pleasant to turn his mind away from the truth and let it roam among reminiscences now doubly precious; pleasant to watch the sun wrap himself in fleeces of gold and silver as he sank to rest, and see the face of the lake wreathed into smiling ripples as the carp sailed out from the shadow of the willows; for nature was kind, and looked at him, it seemed, with eyes that

sympathy clouded. But when the dusk had nearly deepened into darkness, he sent for his chief comptroller, Fuwa Bansaku.

Fuwa owed his high position, his wealth and everything he possessed in the world—he would have declared himself to Hidetsugu's generosity;—others would have said to unselfish industry and matchless fealty. Perhaps the truth lay between the two versions, for whatever the comptroller's merits were, it is certain that the vacillating Minister found a fascination, easily understood, in his servitor's powerful frame, in his ample countenance beaming all over with joyous honesty, and in the atmosphere of active steadfastness that surrounded him so sensibly as to be almost oppressive, had it not been softened by an eye gentle as a girl's. Bansaku's normal belief was that all men were loyal and upright. Nor was this, in his case, an entirely credulous estimate, for the darkest nature could not but emit some answering glimmer, when brought into contact with the strong light of his own probity. Side by side with this faith, however, he guarded another conviction, apparently at variance with his kinder creed, but in truth necessary to its existence among the evidences of his fellows' guilt. He held that human malice can command alliances with superhuman agents. They could not be all fables, those stories that related how poisons that wasted the stoutest bodies and corrupted the purest hearts, had been often administered by invisible hands working in obedience to incantations and sorceries, and in the Lady Yodo's interested hatred, he found an easy explanation of his master's mental malady.

And, indeed, the fitful nature of the minister's excesses seemed to be directed by some unnatural agency, for today, seated among the ladies of his household, he would listen to soft music or compose long songs; tomorrow, he would steal home from a midnight ramble with the blood of three or four luckless travellers on his sword blade; one full moon saw him rapturously gazing at her melancholy splendour from the top of some watch-tower; the next found him on his knees in the same place, blowing the match of an arquebuse, and speculating what chance passer by would receive its first bullet. To Bansaku alone he was always the same kind, confiding master, and it was much easier, as well as pleasanter for the simple-hearted vassal, to imagine the promptings of some transient diabolism, than to conceive that his benefactor's handsome face hid passions strong enough to induce such horrors as men laid to his charge.

When the comptroller entered the pavilion, he found Hidetsugu engaged in tracing some characters on a paper that lay beside him. Even the brief glance that precedes a vassal's obeisance detected evidences of deep trouble in the minister's mien, while the slow, abstracted efforts that directed his pen as it painted rather than wrote the letters, indicated a mood drifting towards the maturity of some unwelcome purpose. Yet, with the tact of pity, Bansaku refrained from inviting any premature confidence, and kneeling silently before his master, sympathy gradually assimilated his aspect to that of the man he confronted.

When Hidetsugu had finished writing, he pushed the paper carelessly forward with the handle of his pen, and the comptroller, taking it, read a transcript of the intelligence brought by Seta Kamon that afternoon. Whether by intention on the writer's part, or whether he had unwittingly copied from the tablets of his memory words indelibly fixed there by their consequence, Bansaku knew from their construction that the sentences were recorded as they had been addressed to the minister. He therefore asked:—

"Whence has your Excellency obtained this intelligence."

"Bansaku," replied the minister, "did you see a man standing on the brink of a rapid river with a large stone in his arms, should you not rather put out your hand to stay his leap, than stop to enquire where he picked up the stone?"

"Your Excellency, I was wrong,"—said the comptroller, simply. "I spoke like a child whose words precede his ideas. But surely there is nothing so critical in your Excellency's present position?"

"I can conceive nothing more critical,"—answered Hidetsugu, "than the position of one called on to refute charges his judge desires to establish. It were more manly and wiser, I think, to accept the foregone conclusion, and seek some method of averting its consequences, than to solicit equity from injustice."

As he spoke these words, the minister's composure was disturbed by an access of dark anger, so little familiar to Bansaku that he turned away in distress, and fixed his eyes again on the paper he still held in his hand.

"There may be no more truth in this statement, your Excellency,"—he said, pointing to the writing, "than in the slanders it attributes to your father's courtiers."

"My informant could have no object in deceiving me, whereas the Regent's desire has given their cue to my traducers,"—replied Hidetsugu, who however glad he might have been to see Kamon's story disproved, resented any distrust of its veracity after he had himself transmitted it.

"Your Excellency's father will not do an injustice, nor condemn without a hearing,"—said Bansaku with a quiet assurance that, even while it convinced Hidetsugu, impelled him to combat his conviction by recrimination.

"If the Regent's conscience,"—he said, "were clear of injustice, he would not see Sen no Rikiu's face in the embers,* and if he were himself less fond of ostentation and magnificence, he might be also less prone to detect this appetite in others. Was not his first act after he became Regent, to build this palace, and was not the Emperor's reception here six years ago made the occasion for a display of pomp and equipage such as Japan has seldom seen?"

Bansaku made no reply. He could not justify Sen no Rikiu's sentence, nor deny that men remarked the Regent's love of parade, and found in it an evidence of his vulgar origin.

But Hidetsugu knew well that such accusations could never impair Bansaku's reverence for his former master, Taiko. He did not therefore urge them, but resumed in a calmer tone:—

"It has not occurred to me yet to consider what course I shall pursue tomorrow, when the Regent's envoy arrives; perhaps because I feel that nothing I can say will avail much."

"Your Excellency surely does not think so,"—said Bansaku earnestly. "You have but to declare your innocence, and let the nature of Sir Yukinaga's message dictate the details of your answer. After all, the judge is your Excellency's father."

All through this interview, Bansaku persistently spoke of Taiko as the minister's father, while Hidetsugu, with equal care, avoided any reference to the Regent, except in his official capacity.

A silence of some minutes ensued. The Minister seemed to be pondering Bansaku's advice, and the latter devising some argument to induce its adoption, when suddenly Hidetsugu said:—

"Bansaku, if it were in your power to aid me, could I count on you?"

The peculiar tone of this question separated it completely from the conversation that had preceded, and set it forth as the real index of the master's business with his vassal. Bansaku's answer showed that he in part appreciated his interrogator's meaning.

"My life belongs to your Excellency,"—he said; "If it can serve you, I offer it with pleasure."

Again Hidetsugu sat silent, for his defection was too young not to be abashed in the presence of such loyalty as Bansaku's. He scattered and assembled the embers in the brazier, plunged the silver tongs in the ashes and swayed them impatiently backwards and forwards, and when he again spoke, it was easy to see that his words still only approximated to his purpose.

"I have heard you mention an art called stealth-craft,"—he said. "You have made it an especial study, have you not?"

"Yes, your Excellency," replied the comptroller. "When I was still your chamberlain, I made the acquaintance of one Ishikawa Goyemon, who is certainly the most accomplished master of that art in the empire, and from him I learned something of its practice."

"Who is he then, this Ishikawa?" asked the Minister. "He is the descendant of a very old family, your Excellency," answered Bansaku, "though not at present borne on the roll of any clan. He seems to have ample private means, and when in Kyoto, leads a life of ease and luxury, but at times I lose sight of him for months together."

"Is he then a connexion of yours?" demanded Hidetsugu.

"No, your Excellency," replied the comptroller, "he became known to me by a mere accident some six years ago. It was at the time of the Imperial progress. Ishikawa had, it seemed, rescued a blind man from three half drunken equestrians,

*It was reported that for many years after Sen no Rikiu's death, his face used to appear to Taiko in the heart of the fire and sometimes in the smoke of the lampwick. F. B.

who were about to thrust him inside the barriers. The equerries followed Ishikawa to an inn, and attacked him when he was sitting upstairs unarmed, but he leaped from the balcony into the garden, and knotting a large stone into his girdle, wielded it with such dexterity that he killed two of his adversaries and stunned the third without receiving a wound himself. I happened to be in the next house at the time, and seeing the affair, the great strength and address of the man attracted me to seek his acquaintance. I have often offered to solicit your Excellency's patronage for him, but he has a strange antipathy to all restraint, and says his habits have made discipline and service impossible to him."

Impatience at the recital of these details seemed at last to have imparted resolution to Hidetsugu. Pushing aside the brazier suddenly and lowering his voice, he said:—

"What does this art enable you to do, that is not equally possible to one untaught?"

"If your Excellency would explain the nature of the service you require of me, I could answer at once whether it falls within the province of my art:"—replied the comptroller, for, seeing that the aspect of his own desires was still repugnant to Hidetsugu, he avoided any explanation that might facilitate their expression.

"I have not said that I require any service connected with your art:"—answered the Minister haughtily, "but suppose I asked you whether the science you have learned from Ishikawa would enable you to make your way through guards and sentinels, and overcome all the precautions against surprise that surround such an one as—myself, for example, what would you reply?"

"I should reply, your Excellency," answered Bansaku, "that the success of such an attempt depends on a condition not included in your Excellency's statement."

"A condition more important than the presence of the guards and the excellence of the precautions!" asked Hidetsugu in astonishment.

"Yes, your Excellency," said Bansaku firmly. "And what may that condition be?" demanded the minister.

"The knowledge that failure would not entail any consequences more disgraceful than the death of the agent:"—replied the comptroller, looking earnestly and with some air of expostulation into his master's face.

The Minister turned away and lapsed into a reverie that betrayed no less perplexity than disappointment. He had forgotten that honest men are only able when their aims are honest, and reminded of this truth by the comptroller's indubious reference of result to the nature of the motive, he found no arguments to control his own or his vassal's conviction. He had looked also for Bansaku's aid in the development and arrangement of his still crude projects, but finding that though he might reckon on his servant's devotion, he could not command his accordance, he resolved to defer his appeal till urgency should make it easier as well as more cogent.

Bansaku, however, though he refused to admit the extent of Hidetsugu's treason till the sequel of this conversation subsequently disclosed it to him, did not depreciate the importance of the crisis, complicated as it was by treacherous influences working at both courts. Leaving the palace of pleasure, he immediately visited Kimura and Tajima, the Minister's monitors, and engaged them to join him in endeavouring to induce Hidetsugu to adopt a policy that might defeat the plots of his enemies.

The texture of Ishida Mitsuari's schemes was too subtle to obscure the discernment of these honest servitors. Not one of them believed that the disgrace of his adopted son would really accord with Taiko's wishes, and in this faith they selected direct communication between the Regent and the Minister as the condition most likely to secure a happy result, and therefore most worthy to be the object of their action.

At daylight the following morning, the three men repaired to the Palace of Pleasure. Their positions at the court generally secured them speedy access to the Minister; but on this occasion they were shown into the waiting-room, and informed that his Excellency was too much indisposed to see them immediately. To Bansaku, who could not endure delay between design and execution, this accident was exceedingly disquieting, but his companions reminded him that the morning was still young, and that they might reasonably have anticipated some tardiness.

Still as the hours crept on, and pages, coming in from time to time to offer refreshments or rebuild the fire, invariably

returned the same answer:—"His Excellency was lying down and had given orders that he was not to be disturbed;" the three men, no longer attempting to reassure each other, sat watching the shadows shorten with an anxiety they scarcely attempted to conceal. The comptroller's solicitude far exceeded that of his comrades, for not having imparted to them his true suspicions of the Minister's mood, he alone was tormented by a misgiving that this seclusion signified the elaboration of some scheme necessarily disloyal, since it was concealed from servants known to be loyal.

Towards noon, they became aware of a bustle in the palace, and presently the sounds of various arrivals reached them from the vestibule, which lay but a little beyond the place where they were seated. But the visitors, whoever they were, passed by the doors of the waiting-room without pausing, and took their way apparently in the direction of the Audience Hall. Bansaku, seeing that his companions were no less bewildered than himself, rose and, throwing open a panel, disclosed the corridor along which the stream of arrivals was flowing. Then they saw that this stream was discharging itself into the Hall of Audience, a great part of which it had already filled with the chief officers of the court, all in their robes of ceremony and marshalled according to the order of their precedence.

"Gentleman," cried a page bursting into the room, "have you received the letters I left at your houses this morning?"

"We have been at the palace since dawn, answered Sir Kimura. "If there were any letters for us, why were they not delivered here?"

"We had them last night, Sir. We have been distributing them since last night. What's to be done? A good two miles and only half an hour!" exclaimed the page, rising suddenly and making for the door, and then as suddenly returning and falling on his knees.

"What were the letters about, Uchida?" demanded Bansaku:—"You evidently know their contents or you would not be so disturbed about their miscarriage."

"That's just it, Sir. They were copies of a general order of His Excellency's, desiring the attendance of all the chief officers to-day to receive an Envoy from the Regent."

The monitors looked at each other uneasily. Never before had Hidetsugu taken any step of this sort without consulting them. Indeed, according to the usual chain of authority, general levées, receptions, or missions of envoys, and all matters lying outside the daily routine, fell under their immediate control, so that they naturally drew uneasy anguries from this unwonted action of the Minister's. Careful, however, to conceal their disquiet from others, Sir Tajima turned to the page and said quietly:—

"If that be all, no harm is done, since we are here."

"Yes, but—interposed Sir Kimura, holding up the sleeve of his mantle and pointing to it significantly.

It was true. Mole-hills beget mountains, and here was the action of three resolute men paralyzed by such a petty embarrassment as the lack of a robe of ceremony!

"If we have time to get home and back before the Envoy's arrival, it may be all right still:"—said the ever-hopeful Bansaku, starting to his feet and throwing open the door. His companions, though not so sanguine, showed no less alacrity, and threading their way across the throng of arrivals, the three men were soon urging their horses rapidly through the streets.

A large crowd of idlers had now gathered before the palace gates, attracted by the equipages of the various officials. Some, especially those who found themselves nearest the line of processions, sat in the conventional posture of respect, but the main part standing, stared boldly at the nobles and grandees as they passed.

"It's a fine thing to ride in a lane between two hedges of gentlemen, and have your rain coats and tea-kettles carried behind you by men in livery," mused a bean-cake merchant, who had rested his boxes on the ground and stood leaning lazily on his bearing-pole.

"Yes, and be ready to cut yourself open if the Minister's hawk flies wild, or his verses scan badly," mumbled a sparrow-catcher, his voice deadened by the folds of a black hood that enveloped his head. "A bean-cake vendor with a good market is a happier man than many a banneret."

"You mightn't think so if you carried the boxes for a few days, my master:"—retorted the other. "Bird-lime and a bamboo rod are a cheap stock in trade."

"Bean-cake or bird-lime, you can't put more than a pottle

in a pottle bag, Mr. Merchant. I take it, we've all a pretty equal nodding acquaintance with good and evil luck, but the carle that crawls in the by-ways runs less risk of being roughly jostled than the count that struts in the thoroughfares."

"Mr. Sparrow-catcher is in the right," chimed in a round little man, whose enormous obesity kept him solidly planted in his place, despite the occasional shocks of the mob. "Better sup from a platter with old chop-sticks than have a stiletto served to you on a lacquered salver. Look at Mr. Comptroller there, what a pucker he's in and what a pace he's riding at. How do you know with all his stout honesty he hasn't got his 'route for the shades' in his sleeve."

"You've shot wide there!"—said the sparrow-catcher, who seemed to dislike community of sentiment almost as much as contradiction. Fuwa Bansaku's face is the last place you'll find any token of danger to himself."

But the further progress of this colloquy was interrupted by a cadence of marshalmen's voices, indicating the advent of another dignity. "Back ye, back ye, back ye" droned the marshalmen with the perfunctory intonation of long habit, and "back ye, back ye, back ye" echoed half-a-dozen urchins, who had climbed into the boughs of a cherry tree, and repeatedly deluded the bystanders by descrying imaginary processions of marvellous magnificence from their vantage ground.

"Take care, my lass," cried the sparrow-catcher, stretching out his hand to stay a slender girl of sixteen or seventeen, who had nearly stumbled over the bean-cake vendor's boxes.

"Thank you, Sir," said the girl, raising a face of singular beauty, but flushed with anxiety and weariness; for she carried on her back a sturdy child, half as heavy as herself, and had received more than one rough buffet in her efforts to shield the boy from the pressure of the mob.

"It's no place for little lasses strapped to big children to be wandering about!"—growled the sparrow-catcher, at the same time, however, planting himself sturdily behind the girl and protecting her by voice and action.

"Should you like to be shut up in a room with nothing to do but write verses and play the harp, child?" asked the bean-cake merchant, looking admiringly at the girl.

"No, Sir,"—she answered laughingly. "I should soon be tired of that, for I don't know how to do one or the other."

"Then I advise you not to show yourself often near the palace gates, for if the Minister sees such a flower as you on the way-side, he won't leave it long uncultured."

"Aye, aye, and if she don't rhyme and dance then, she'll have a cold pillow, and perhaps make the acquaintance of the dissecting knife *," added a rough voice from the crowd.

The poor girl, finding herself the centre of so much observation, blushed deeply, and perhaps to hide her confusion, stooped down and deposited her living burden on the ground.

"Shame on you, my masters," remonstrated the sparrow-catcher. "A girl's no safer from your tongues than she is from the Minister's eye."

"Mr. Sparrow-catcher wants to plaster her feathers with his own lime of fair words," cried a shrill voice from the cherry-tree.

"I'll plaster you, my lad," said the sparrow-catcher, and turning, he thrust his long lime-smeared rod among the branches, eliciting a chorus of screams from the cluster of urchins.

But a scream of a very different nature caused him to turn quickly, and he saw, to his dismay, that the child had escaped from its sister and was standing in the middle of the lane left by the crowd, and up which the procession of the Envoy, Sir Yukinaga was now advancing.

"Tell it to come back, girl, instead of screaming," urged the sparrow-catcher earnestly, himself beckoning and calling to the child.

But the girl, taught by the hyperbole of household tradition that to cross before a noble's retinue was a synonym for a sword-cut, could only hide her face and moan, while the man, despite his efforts to seem calm, gesticulated so excitedly that the child, terrified by his earnestness, and bewildered by the uproar that had suddenly sprung up on either side, sat down in his place and burst into tears.

What was to be done? To pass before the cavalcade

was to incur at least blows, nay possibly to imperil life, while to leave the boy where he was could entail no more serious consequences than a scolding for his sister. A little prudence would at once have inclined the balance towards the latter course, but either the man was not prudent, or else the glance of anguished appeal that met his, as the girl plucked her tearful face from her mantle, excited some feeling nobler than prudence. The leader of the procession was still some five or six paces distant, as the sparrow-catcher leaped towards the child. His apparition between the two living walls that lined the street acted like the breath of the genius that guards the groves of Gongen, for the restless turbulence of the motley mob was instantly petrified into a rapt and statue-like silence of suspense.

It was indeed a sight such as even in those stirring times might make the coldest heart throb: the man, whose life had always been narrowed by poverty and hardship, throwing himself into the jaws of a terrible peril, under the impulse of a feeling that the kind and the cruel alike respect, and the proud pageant of the cavalcade, smoothly and steadily approaching, at every step exchanging its air of solemn grandeur for an aspect of grim menace, as it shortened the distance between itself and its victim. Traditions of many and many a fatal sabre-stroke that had disencumbered the front of a procession, made it impossible any longer to plead ignorance in extenuation of such an act as the sparrow-catcher was now performing, and the most inexperienced of the spectators felt that the man's life depended in a great measure on so fickle an element as the humour of the officer heading the retinue, whose long swords craftily adjusted in his belt, offered their hilts to his grasp with ominous significance, as though they solicited employment. There was also such an immense disparity between the actors in the scene, between this humblest of hunters, whose meanly clad body would have been deemed a fair target for the fleshing of his maiden sword by any blue-blood roisterer, and that group of haughty gentlemen, pacing along in all the magnificence of aristocracy and equipment, that the temerity of the first and the absolute might of the second became doubly conspicuous in each other's presence.

But the man had already reached the child, raised it and turned to escape. After all, he had not insulted the procession, since he had only removed what would otherwise have obstructed its progress, and the justice of his action seemed to be recognized, for the leading officer made no gesture of anger or reproof. People began to wonder what they had feared, and the girl, smiling through her tears, stretched out her arms to receive the child, when her glad exclamation of gratitude was suddenly changed to a cry of horror, and at the same moment there rose from the crowd one of those indescribable sounds, half gasp, half groan, that betrays emotion incapable of either expression or suppression, for whether owing to the struggles of the boy in his arms, or from some awkward heedlessness of his own, the sparrow-catcher in turning, had thrust the lime-daubed point of his long rod full in the face of the procession-leader, and the officer, grasping the rod so as to check the man, had leaped angrily forward, plucked his long sword from its scabbard, and swept it across the sparrow-catcher's back from shoulder to waist.

Though the dexterous rapidity of the stroke left no room to doubt its issue, the wounded man had strength to struggle to his place and restore the child to its sister's arms before he fell.

"It was my own fault, lass,"—said he soothingly, as the girl's tears dropped on his face. "After fifty years' practice, I should have known how to manage the lime-rod better."

"Oh, Sir, is he badly hurt?" exclaimed the girl in an agony of grief, addressing an officer apparently of high rank, who had pushed through the crowd, thrusting men from his path as if they were children, and was now examining the wound.

"Not hurt at all, my lass," murmured the sparrow-catcher. "I'm very thankful to die so easily, for I couldn't have used the rod much longer."

"Old man," said the officer, for now that the sparrow-catcher's hood was removed, his wrinkled face and whitening hair showed the footprints of some threescore summers, "have you no message for your friends before you go?"

But there was no answer. The sparrow-catcher was dead.

"Namu-amida-Butsu," said one of the spectators, stepping forward, and drawing his black hood once more over the dead man's face. "The Gods comfort the child that waits for him at home."

* A allusion to a brutality ascribed to Hidetatsu, but on very doubtful authority. F. B.

"You know him then?" asked the officer.

"Yes, Sir," replied the man, "he and his little granddaughter were my neighbours."

"If that be so," said the officer, "you will do a kindness both to the living and the dead by conducting this young girl to his house. All that we can offer the man now, is revenge for himself and charity for those he leaves. And you, child," he continued, turning to the girl who sat rocking herself backwards and forwards, and sobbing as if the intensity of her grief could never find complete expression, "since this old man's last act was undertaken for your brother's sake, I will ask you to carry this packet to his granddaughter, and tell her, when you give it, that Ishikawa Goyemon promises her grand-father's murderer the same death his victim died."

With these words he placed a rouleau of gold in the girl's hand, and walked away, leaving the people staring at one another and at the rouleau which contained more money than many of them had ever seen in their lives.

"Who is he?" demanded several, each addressing his neighbour. "Such a man must be well known somewhere."

"For my part," said the bean-cake vendor as he shouldered his boxes, "I don't know who he is, but I tell you what: there's not much to choose now between this dead man and him that killed him, or I'm very much mistaken."

The next morning, the officer who had led the procession of the Envoy, Sir Yakinaga, was found lying dead beside the castle moat. He held a drawn sword in his hand as though he had fought for his life, and his body was almost cut in two by a blow that had divided it from shoulder to waist.

(To be continued in our next.)

"THE PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BY THEIR OWN ERROR."

(Correspondence of the *Choya Shimbun*.)

I OBSERVE that in several cases, the people, by their own fault, are losing their individual rights. I will give an example.

Our Government, at the time of the Reformation, 18th January 1871, removed the limit on interest on money; since which time money has been at the rate of 15 or 16 per cent, per annum; but lenders seized their opportunity and increased the rate 5 per cent more, making it up to 20 per cent. And then, as borrowers did not take much notice of this, but consented to anything lenders asked; lenders again availed themselves of the chance, and demanded commission fees besides the interest. And though borrowers were not pleased at this, they were obliged to comply with the demand, in order to release themselves, for a time, from the bill-collectors, &c., who were dunning them for payment.

Thus, when the time for repayment arrives, various difficulties occur; and after giving a good deal of trouble to the judges, borrowers finally come to bankruptcy.

Although borrowers bring this result on themselves, the blame, in reality, is on the lenders: but if one considers a step further, it is seen that the borrowers are also blameable. For instance:—A comes to a money-lender, and asks to borrow some money at 15 per cent interest: to which the lender complies, when presently B comes and asks for the same, which the lender declines, having previously promised A his money. B then says, that, if A was to pay 15 per cent, he would pay 20 for the loan; to which the money-lender gladly says 'all right.' Then A comes again, and the lender, with a regretful look, acquaints him with what has just taken place. Then says A:—"if B will pay you 20 per cent, I will pay you 'reikin' (money given in acknowledgment of a favour) or a commission fee,"—which brings it up to 25 per cent. It is like throwing meat to a hungry tiger, but this is the actual condition of things among the people.

The Government, unable to overlook this, has again decreed, in the 10th year of Meiji, a legal limit of money interest. But, although this is a favour from the Government to the people, in reality the latter have thereby lost their freedom of action in this particular by their own error. And according to what I have heard, people—though not in this district, acting against the orders of the Government, have inflicted on themselves a more serious injury. The rate of interest is now divided into two:—

that of private arrangement, and that of the legal rate; so that, though it is plainly written on the surety paper that the interest is to be paid at the rate of 12 per cent; it is privately arranged to be 20, and the extra 8 per cent is deducted beforehand; so that, if the principal is 100 yen and the interest to be one yen, per month; then the 8 per cent extra is calculated up the time of expiry of the contract, and this amount deducted from the principal when handing it over at first. And, added to the above, they charge commission-fees. So no one can escape from the covetousness of the money-lenders.

Alas! how can the Government stop this hidden calamity? I should say, without hesitation, that the only means to prevent it is the establishment of a National Assembly. Although the practice of gambling has been long since strictly forbidden here; it is not so injurious to people in civilized countries: in fact, it is not too much to say that it promotes the circulation of money; but, in uncivilized countries, it is a fearful thing, and not a few of our countrymen get ruined, and even turn to robbers; and thus good people have been greatly injured. Government therefore, by establishing a strict law, attempted to sweep away the practice. This was also from the people's error.

It must not be supposed, because I argue thus, I consider gambling and taking interest for money as of the same nature. But one who violates the law is a criminal, offending against the Government; and one who is the cause of loss of our individual rights is also a criminal, offending against the people. Should there be any who agree with me in my opinion, let us 'strike drums' (sound an alarm) and look out for the criminals.

EXTRACTS.

CURRENCY QUACKS, AND THE SILVER BILL.

AS soon as the war was over, and economic questions began to be of chief importance, a number of ambitious politicians sought to rise to control in each of our great political parties by proposals to oblige those who had trusted the United States in its darkest days, to receive its non-interest-bearing promissory notes, of an unlimited issue, in compulsory exchange for its interest-bearing bonds. The scheme grew popular. Many public men of rank and ability succumbed to the "greenback" movement, and floated with the current which, before it gathered headway, they should have stemmed, and fought, and turned. Such abdications, indeed, of the function and duty of leadership, in Ohio and Indiana, are the open secret of the endemic financial heresies in those States, and of the sequacious compliances, timidities, ambitions, and even the dishonor, of some of their foremost men, in the crisis of last winter and at the present hour.

The defeat, however, of the greenback demagogy, after varying fortunes and a long struggle, was complete in each political party. Despite the packing of the United States Supreme Court with judges committed to the reversal of its legal-tender decision in *Hepburn vs. Griswold*; despite the degradation of court, government, and country, in the reversal of that decision by *Knex vs. Lee*; despite the stoppage of the resumption policy preparing by Secretary McCulloch; despite the illegal inflation authorized by President Grant; despite the annual improvidence which in eleven years of peace took from the people in Federal taxes thirteen times the whole amount of the legal-tender notes, and squandered four times that sum in useless expense without accumulating any reserve for their redemption—at last the inflationists calling themselves Republicans were foiled in their long endeavor to capture the control of that party. So, too, despite temporary and local successes, the demagogues calling themselves Democrats failed in their persistent effort to capture the control of the opposition party, or interrupt its historic character and fame. In the nomination of Governor Tilden, upon a hard-money, resumption platform, at St. Louis, they met their Waterloo.

It was in such a condition of the country, and of our politics, that the most portentous calamity befell, of which republican institutions have ever borne the shock. Although Governor Tilden was chosen to the presidency by a majority of the popular vote, and a majority of the electoral vote, the control of political events and policies, and the selection of a Chief Magistrate whose capacity in public economy and finance had been illustrious, were whipped out of the people's hands by a conspiracy of force and fraud, to which the late President and eight members of the Electoral Commission furnished the conditions of a successful issue. A candidate whom the people had rejected attained and administers the presidential office.

Nemesis has not delayed. And hardly will she be adjured by vows of a prosperous immunity to fraud. The majority party lacks the use and the responsibilities of its power, primacy of leadership, the web-like affiliation of public trusts and party ties. The minority party has the semblance of power without the substance, the responsibility without the possession. Its leadership lacks authority. Its executive initiative is pure impotence. Its executive veto is an arithmetical, not a moral, force. Its head has been obliged to be the channel, not the organ, of a people's will—a vessel of dishonor, not of honor. He has been constrained to abjure the policy his followers had defended, and abandon the usurpations in which their faith was reposed. And after bestowing judicial, diplomatic, or civil trusts upon the scoundrels who perpetrated and the lawyers who defended the crime by which he rose, Senators are tightening their grasp upon the perquisite renounced in their platform, and bruise the hand, gloved with civil-service reform, that he stretches forth from the White House to gather up out of chaos the elements of party order and rule.

These facts are here touched, not in order to reargue a past or anticipate a coming debate, but to point their relation to an imminent peril. For this political disorder and relaxed party allegiance in a country of which the government has hitherto been conducted through party contentions, are precisely the circumstances which to-day make it possible for the advocates of dishonest finance, although lately routed in each party, to unite their forces outside both; and, joined by many an honest but misguided man, to carry through the two Houses of Congress, when controlled by opposing parties, a bill perfidious to pledges in respect to the public faith, given by both. In fact the "Silver Bill" would be a faithless reversal of the policy of the country itself in a matter concerning the public interests and the public honor. Under the guise of a legal pecuniary advantage promised to the burdened tax-payer by demagogues willing to promise anything if so they may but thrive, it is in fact a measure depreciating silver itself, damaging the credit of the United States, as the markets show; and will be yet more costly in its increase of the annual burden of a gigantic debt, in deepening and prolonging the present industrial and commercial depression, and in the new and needless suffering it will inflict upon millions of the laboring poor by chasing affrighted capital, that might employ them, back to its hiding-places and its hoards. The bill* would never have been dreamed of had not the price of silver fallen from the par 100, below the paper promise to pay a "dollar"—now worth 98, down to the level of 90 to 91.

Now, it is not to be expected that the sequelæ of any such enactment as this in our prices, commerce, currency, and finance, should be forecast by one voter in ten thousand. The reason is plain. It involves the intricacies and the principles of a science in which the experts are few. That science deals with an order of facts touching indeed the interests of all, but not therefore appreciable by all in their relations, results, and laws. Consider this a little. One expert, of practical experience and high scientific training, and who, by-the-way, warns us of the folly of receding from the gold age to the silver age of currency, is W. Stanley Jevons, an ex-master of the Australian Mint, author of a celebrated treatise on "The Principles of Science," of another on "Money," and Professor of Political Economy in University College, London. He is a man who has done more for his science than any other since Adam Smith, for by applying the differential calculus to its familiar notions, he has given to it mathematical precision and a future of assured and widening power. And this is his way of speaking of political economy,—as "already consisting of many extensive branches of inquiry, among which one is a subject of such appalling extent and complexity as the currency." So that we shall hardly, all of us, see our way clear in this matter, by the mass-meeting method, although in Chicago they think otherwise, and an assemblage there resolved the other night that they were "terribly in earnest, and that nothing short of absolute and unconditional surrender to their demands will be accepted." Nor is this the way of Logan, a Senator of whom Illinois is now disenchanted, who is said to have proposed devoting a fortnight

* *Be it enacted, etc.*—that there shall be coined, at the several mints of the United States, silver dollars of the weight 4.22 grains Troy of standard silver, as provided in the act of January 18, 1857, on which there shall be the devices and superscriptions provided by such act, which coins, together with all silver dollars heretofore coined by the United States of like weight and fineness, shall be a legal tender at their nominal value for all debts and dues, public and private, except where otherwise provided by contract; and any owner of silver bullion may deposit it to such dollars for his benefit upon the same terms and conditions as gold bullion is deposited for exchange under existing law. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.—[*Passed House of Representatives, November 5, 1877.*]

to the study of financial science, which at that time he knew nothing of, though afterward he knew less. Nor are such the views of Bland, of Missouri, who told the Senate Finance Committee that he thought the people of his district understood this matter, and this silver bill was what they wanted, and that it would save everybody eight cents on the dollar, and who threatened repudiation of the whole national debt if there should be resistance to such small scaling. Nor is this the way of Ewing, of Ohio, who says that "whoever by covert legislation changes the value of contracts is as accursed as he who moves his neighbor's landmarks," himself meanwhile preferring the blessings belonging to one who by open legislation changes the value of contracts, and debases a nation's standards. The late Charles Sumner was eminent by comparison with legislators such as these. Discussions in finance were little to his taste, but in a speech on return to specie payments he exhibited at least this qualification for his task, the knowledge that political economy has a literature and laws, and that he could do no better than be the mouth-piece of an adept like Amasa Walker.

In this view it is certainly discouraging to read the recent report* of the United State Silver Commission which is founded upon battalions of figures representing the store of gold and silver in the world in 1492, and the product and proportions since, tables which Bagehot justly thought and testified before the Goschen Silver Commission "were not worth the paper on which they were written." It suppresses or defers the testimony of the witnesses called before them, and appears to be the work of some hired dabster in all the misinformation that can be extorted from the statistics of national wealth and progress, and most of the misapprehensions that can be foisted into literature which has classified and construed them. Its law wants nothing but humor to make it a fit appendix to "The Comic Blackstone;" and, in a style shockingly hirsute, its author rattles on through one hundred and thirty pages, finding within himself the means of believing a thousand times as much as there is to believe, judging by experience, and pouring forth with never a dash of doubt more unflinching assertions about debts, values, credit, and prices, silver, gold, currency, and its volume, than all the first-rate economists, from Pierre Boisguilbert to Wm. G. Sumner, could demonstrate in a millennium, even if any one such assertion, so unqualified and cosmical, could perchance be true.

Yet it will not do to be discouraged. It is a bad outlook, but public opinion constitutes our court of errors and final appeal; and self-government, of the people, by the people, for the people, is not therefore a foredoomed failure, because at last their votes revise the reports of monetary commissions, and decide the fate of silver bills. The seaman who saves his ship by heeding the storm-signal need know little of meteorology. The farmer who gets his crop under cover before a predicted heavy rainfall need know nothing of isobars and isochisms. The people's votes support the Coast-Survey, which has mapped our shores, fathomed our harbors, sounded sea-slopes, and guarded the keels of our commerce, without one in ten thousand of us knowing its problems or its plans. Here it is quite the same, and the people's common-sense, as in other cases outside their ken, may be trusted to estimate shrewdly and fairly the influence of authority in matters of opinion.

Now Sir George Cornewall Lewis and Mr. Gladstone in their discussions of this just and great authority, owned by the wisest even more than by the weakest of men, lay down one rule as primary for those who wish to walk wisely where with their own eyes they cannot see the way:

"With respect to subjects of speculation and science the existence of an agreement of the persons having the above qualifications (ability, honesty, and learning) is the most important matter. If all the able and honest men who have diligently studied the subject, or most of them, concur, and if this consent extends over several successive generations, at an enlightened period, and in all or most civilized countries, then the authority is at its greatest height. . . . If ten credible witnesses agree in their testimony to a fact, the value of their concurrent testimony is more than ten times the value of the testimony of each. So the joint probability of the agreement of ten competent judges in a right opinion is far greater than the sum of the probabilities of the rectitude of the opinion of each taken separately. . . . Therefore as the agreement in a scientific opinion among competent judges widens its area, the chances of rectitude increase and the chances of error diminish in a perpetually accelerated ratio."

Consider now that most of the able, honest, and learned men in all or most civilized countries, who are versed in the speculations and science of political economy, after diligent study of the subject, after debates which have extended over successive generations

* The concise, masterly scientific minority report by Prof. Francis Bowen, of Harvard, concurred in by Banfill Gibson, of Louisiana, is but the jewel in the mountain, 22 pages of sense hidden amid 574 pages mostly rubbish.

during the present century, have come to an agreement or consensus that the single metallic standard of value coined in gold is best (not excluding silver over valued in fractional coins, and paper convertible with gold). The silver bill has absolutely no scientific support, for the small minority remaining of these able, honest, and learned men, who still contend for the superior advantages of a bi-metallic, double or alternative standard of value, condition the success of that scheme and their approval upon a congress and coöperation of the leading commercial states of the world; affirm that, if but one metallic standard of value must be chosen, gold is best; admit that several of the greater European nations have for the present no hope of using coin of either metal, and that the rest are steadily discarding the double standard and adopting the single gold standard, or have adopted it; declare that the Bland silver bill if a law would drive out gold, demonetizing it in the land of its greatest production; and oppose its passage as fatal to the bi-metalism they prefer.*

Concerning universal bi-metalism, whether it is desirable or no, and if desirable, whether possible or no, and if possible, whether possible soon or no, and how; and whether the coöperation of England can be constrained by increasing her Indian difficulties, or by a drain of gold set up by the United States opening for three days in the principal markets of Europe a public subscription to a loan of about £85,000,000 United States sterling consols; and whether, by such a measure, or by any act of ours, or by the arguments of Laveleye, Wolowski, Seyd, Say, and Courcelle-Seneuil, Germany can be led to retreat from her recognized embarrassments, and join the other great powers and the United States in making both metals full legal tender at the fixed ratio of 1=15.5; and whether or no the guarantee of all the governments would suffice to fix and maintain that ratio amid great possible fluctuation hereafter in the relative supply of either metal from new mines or cheaper production; and whether, as to the measuring power of total currency over total commodities, including long debts, the disuse as full legal tender of our small part, or even such disuse of any larger part, of the total of the precious metals, in the currency of European nations, or both, has brought down, or can bring down, the ratio of commodities in exchange for gold, here or throughout the world, effecting a universal fall of prices, when it is conceded that, even over the United States, with our bank-notes, checks, drafts, book-accounts, and clearing-house machinery to accomplish the great bulk of mercantile transactions, not twelve per cent. are done in cash, and in England not five per cent., to say nothing of the constant cheapening of most commodities by the steady advance in sciences and arts, the writer here defers the expression of any opinions whatsoever. It is a high debate, *inter apices*; and, besides, until the Copernicans have convinced the Ptolemaists, our readers who are ignorant of astronomy may as well refuse to acknowledge the heliocentricity of things. These are questions not now upon the carpet. The question under debate, lugged untimely into the public councils by eccentric quacks, mischievous and incapable to read in the horn-book of either school, is the Bland silver bill. In detestation of that, the Copernicans and the Ptolemaists of political economy are at one. The mono-metallists denounce it for demonetizing the best of the two metals, and the bi-metallists denounce it for that, and for postponing the restoration of both. So that the Silver Bill should be condemned by everybody who knows little or nothing of currency or coinage, lacks for any reason the ability to form a sound judgment for himself, and has the wisdom to accept one from those most competent to form and accredit such a judgment.

(To be continued in our next.)

MR. GILEAD P. BECK'S EXPERIENCES AS AN EDITOR.

"I was in Chicago Fifteen years ago. I wanted employment. Nobody wanted me. I spent most of the dollars, and thought I had better dig out for a new location, when I met one day an old

* What Milton calls "a horse-load of citations" from the majority of the economists were prepared for dumping into this foot-note, which nobody would have read, or, if reading, sensible readers might have read no more. It is safer to cite only from the small minority of the economists, namely, from the most active and impassioned of European bi-metallists, Henri Cernuschi, and the most acute and learned of them all, S. Dana Horton, of Ohio. Says Cernuschi: "This exportation of gold is inevitable if you establish bi-metalism, Europe remaining gold-mono-metallic. . . . Bi-metalism can only be rehabilitated by the coöperation of all the states, India included." In his "Silver Vindicated," published in the *Journal des Economistes* (xliv., 1876), with criticism by Léon Walras, another economist who has betrothed mathematics to the dismal science, Cernuschi says the only remedy is universal bi-metalism. Says Horton, in his "Silver and Gold": "The Bland bill means mischief. It is really an attack upon the bi-metallic system, the restoration of which is needed for the future prosperity of the world; and if it becomes law it will prove an obstruction to the prosperity of the United States. . . . Instead of the bimetallic standard, the result would be mono-metallic inflation in the dollar of the Fathers."

schoolfellow named Rayner. He told me he was part proprietor of a morning paper. I asked him to take me on. He said he was only publisher, but he would take me to see the Editor, Mr. John B. Van Cott, and perhaps he would set me grinding at the locals. We found the Editor. He was a short active man of fifty, and he looked as cute as he was. Because, you see, Mr. Dunquerque, unless you are pretty sharp on a Western paper, you won't earn your muck. He was keeled back, I remember, in a strong chair, with his feet on the front of the table, and a clip full of paper on his knee. And in that position he used to write his leading articles. Squelchers, some of them; made gentlemen of opposite politics cry, and drove rival editors to polishing shooting irons. The floor was covered with exchanges. And there was nothing else in the place but a cracked stove, half a dozen chairs standing around loose, and a spittoon.

"I mention these facts, Mr. Dunquerque, to show that there was good standing-room for a free fight of not more than two.

"Mr. Van Cott shook hands, and passed me the tobacco-pouch, while Rayner chanted my praises. When he wound up and went away, the Editor began.

"Wal, sir," he said, "you look as if you knew enough to go indoors when it rains, and Rayner seems powerful anxious to get you on the paper. A good fellow is Rayner; as white a man as I ever knew; and he has as many old friends as would make a good-sized city. He brings them all here, Mr. Beck, and wants to put every one on the paper. To hear him hold forth would make a camp-meeting exhorter feel small. But he's disinterested, is Rayner. It's all pure goodness."

"I tried to feel as if I wasn't down-hearted. But I was.

"Any way," I said, "if I can't get on here, I must dig out for a place nearer sundown. Once let me get a fair chance on a paper, and I can keep my end of the stick."

"The Editor went on to tell me what I knew already, that they wanted live men on the paper, fellows that would do a murder or a prize-fight right up to the handle. Then he came to business; offered me a triple execution just to show my style; and got up to introduce me to the other boys.

"Just then there was a knock at the door.

"That's Poulter, our local Editor," he said. "Come in, Poulter. He will take you down for me."

"The door opened, but it wasn't Poulter. I knew that by instinct. It was a rough looking customer with a black-dyed moustache, a diamond pin in his shirt front, and a great gold chain across his vest; and he carried a heavy stick in his hand.

"Which is the one of you two that runs this machine?" he asked, looking from one to the other.

"I am the Editor," said Mr. Van Cott, "if you mean that."

"Then you air the Rooster I'm after," he went on. "I am John Halkett of Tenth Ward. I want to know what in thunder you mean by printing infernal lies about me and my party in your miserable one-hoss paper."

"He drew a copy of the paper from his pocket, and held it before the Editor's eyes.

"You know your remedy, sir," said Mr. Van Cott, quietly edging in the direction of the table, where there was a drawer.

"That's what I do know. That's what I'm here for. There's two remedies. One is that you retract all the lies you have printed; the other—"

"You need not tell me what the other is, Mr. Halkett." As he spoke he drew open the drawer; but he hadn't time to take the pistol from it when the ward politician sprang upon him, and in a flash of lightning they were rolling over each other among the exchanges on the floor.

"If they had been evenly matched, I should have stood around to see fair. But it wasn't equal. Van Cott, you could see at first snap, was grit all through, and as full of fight as a game-rooster. But it was bulldog and terrier. So I hitched on to the stranger, and pulled him off by main force.

"You will allow me, Mr. Van Cott," I said, "to take this contract off your hands. Choose a back seat, sir, and see fair."

"Sail in," cried Mr. Halkett, as cheerful as a coot, "and send for the coroner, because he'll be wanted. I don't care which it is."

"That was the toughest job I ever had. The strength of ward politicians' opinions lies in their powers of bruising, and John Halkett, as I learned afterwards, could fight his weight in wild cats. Fortunately I was no slouch in those days.

"He met my advances halfway. In ten minutes you couldn't tell Halkett from me, nor me from Halkett. The furniture moved around cheerfully, and there was a lovely racket. The sub-editors, printers, and reporters came running in. It was a new scene for them, poor fellows, and they enjoyed it accordingly. The Editor they had often watched in a fight before, but here were two strangers worrying each other on the floor, with Mr. Van Cott out of it himself, dodging around cheering us on. That gave novelty.

"The sharpest of the reportes had his flimsy up in a minute, and took notes of the proceedings.

"We fought that worry through. It lasted fifteen minutes We fought out of the office; we fought down the stairs; and we fought on the pavement.

"When it was over, I found myself arrayed in the tattered remnants of my gray coat, and nothing else. John Halkett hadn't so much as that. He was bruised and bleeding, and he was deeply moved. Tears stood in his eyes as he grasped me by the hand.

"'Stranger,' he said, 'will you tell me where you hail from?'

"'Air you satisfied, Mr Halkett,' I replied, 'with the editorial management of this newspaper?'

"'I am,' he answered. 'You bet. This is the very best edited paper that ever ran. Good morning, sir. You have took the starch out of John Halkett in a way that no starch ever was took out of that man before. And if ever you get into a tight place, you come to me.'

"They put him in a cab, and sent him home for repairs. I went back to the Editor's room. He was going on again with his usual occupation of manufacturing squelchers. The fragments of the chairs lay around him, but he wrote on unmoved.

"'Consider yourself permanently engaged,' he said. 'The firm will pay for a new suit of clothes. Why couldn't you say at once that you were fond of fighting? I never saw a visitor tackled in a more loveable style. Why, you must have been brought up to it. And just to think that one might never have discovered your points if it hadn't been for the fortunate accident of John Halkett's call!'

"I said I was too modest to mention my tastes.

"'Most fortunate it is. Blevins, who used to do our fighting—a whole team he was at it—was killed three months ago on this very floor; there's the mark of his fluid still on the wall. We gave Blevins a first-class funeral, and ordered a two-hundred-dollar monument to commemorate his virtues. We were not ungrateful to Blevins.

"'Birkett came next,' he went on, making corrections with a pencil stump. 'But he was licked like a cur three times in a fortnight. People used to step in on purpose to wallop Birkett, it was such an easy amusement. The paper was falling into disgrace, so we shunted him. He drives a cab now, which suits him better, because he was always gentlemanly in his ways.

"'Carter, who followed, was very good in some respects, but he wanted judgment. He's in hospital with a bullet in the shoulder, which comes of his own carelessness. We can't take him on again any more, even if he was our style, which he never was.'

"'And who does the work now?' I ventured to ask.

"'We have had no regular man since Carter was carried off on a shutter. Each one does a little, just as it happens to turn up. But I don't like the irregular system. It's quite unprofessional.'

"I asked if there was much of that sort of thing.

"'Depends on the time of year. It is the dull season just now, but we are lively enough when the fall elections come on. We sometimes have a couple a day then. You won't find yourself rusting. And if you want work, we can stir up a few editors by judicious writing. I'm powerful glad we made your acquaintance, Mr. Beck.

"That, Mr. Dunquerque, is how I became connected with the press."

"And did you like the position?"

"It had its good points. It was a situation of great responsibility. People were continually turning up who disliked our method of depicting character, and so the credit of the paper mainly rested on my shoulders. No, sir; I got to like it, except when I had to go into hospital for repairs. And even that had its charms, for I went there so often that it became a sort of home, and the surgeons and nurses were like brothers and sisters."

"But you gave up the post?" said Jack.

"Well, sir, I did. The occupation, after all, wasn't healthy, and was a little too lively. The staff took a pride in me too, and delighted to promote freedom of discussion. If things grew dull for a week or two, they would scarify some ward ruffian just to bring on a fight. They would hang around there to see that ward ruffian approach the office, and they would struggle who should be the man to point me out as the gentleman he wished to interview. They were fond of me to such an extent that they could not bear to see a week pass without a fight. And I will say this of them, that they were as level a lot of boys as ever destroyed a man's character.

"Most of the business was easy. They came to see Mr. Van Cott, and they were shown up to me. What there is of me takes

up a good deal of the room. And when they'd put their case I used to open the door and point. 'Git,' I would say. 'You bet,' was the general reply; and they would go away quite satisfied with the Editorial reception. But once a week or so there would be a put-up thing, and I knew by the look of my men which would take their persuasion fighting.

"It gradually became clear to me that if I remained much longer there would be a first-class funeral, with me taking a prominent part in the process; and I began to think of digging out while I still had my hair on.

"One morning I read an advertisement of a paper to be sold. It was in the city of Clearville, Illinois, and it seemed to suit. I resolved to go and look at it, and apprised Mr. Van Cott of my intention.

"'I'm powerful sorry,' he said; 'but of course we can't keep you if you will go. You've hoed your row like a square man ever since you came, and I had hoped to have had your valuable services till the end.'

"I attempted to thank him, but he held up his hand, and went on thoughtfully:—

"'There's room in our plat at Rose Hill Cemetery for one or two more; and I had made up my mind to let you have one side of the monument all to yourself. The sunny side, too—quite the nicest nest in the plat. And we'd have given you eight lines of poetry—Blevins only got four, and none of the other fellows any. I assure you, Beck, though you may not think it, I have often turned this over in my mind when you have been in hospital, and I got to look on it as a settled thing. And now this is how it ends. Life is made up of disappointments.'

"I said it was very good of him to take such an interest in my funeral, but that I had no yearning at present for Rose Hill Cemetery, and I thought it would be a pity to disturb Blevins. As I had never known him and the other boys, they mightn't be pleased if a total stranger were sent to join their little circle.

"Mr. Van Cott was good enough to say that they wouldn't mind it for the sake of the paper; but I had my prejudices, and I resigned.—(*The Golden Butterfly.*)

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9th 1878.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d., sight 3s. 10½d. Credits, 6 months' sight 4s. 0d. nom. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. nom. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 4.97½, sight 4.87½. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.04. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 72½. Private, 10 days' sight 73. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight ¾ o/o disct. Private, 10 days' sight 1½ o/o disct. San Francisco Bank sight 94. New York Bank, sight 93½. BULLION. Gold Yen 393, Kinsatsu 448.

[illegible]

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Mar. 1	Egeria	Douglas	Brit. sl'p of War	1,011	Kobe	Feb. 27		
" 1	Perim	Linton	Brit. str.	1,016	London		General	W. M. Strachan & Co.
" 2	Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Jap. str.	880	Kobe	Mar. 1	Mails & General	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	City of Tokio	Mauy	Am. str.	5,050	San Francisco	Feb. 7	Mails & General	P. M. Co.
" 7	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,300	Kobe	Mar. 4	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 7	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	Feb. 28	Mails & general	P. & O. Co.
" 8	Aureola	Penery	Brit. barq.	947	Newport	Sep. 19	Coals	M. M. Co.
" 8	Iphigenia	Green	Ger. barq.	464	Hamburg	Aug. 28	General	Kniffler & Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* from San Francisco:—Rev. O. Cary Jr., and wife, Mrs. F. R. Chadwick, Messrs. F. J. Raymond, J. W. Masury, A. Warnet, J. B. Macbeth, Marcus Isaacs, A. A. Kalendo, M. Mc. Martin, and servant, James Marous, James Clark, T. Magers. For Hongkong: Paymaster G. E. Thomson, U. S. N., and wife, Col. T. Bunnndez and wife, Francisco Miefarrena.
Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—Dr. S. T. O'Grady, Hon. F. B. and Mrs. Johnson, and servant, Mr. Plummer; and 17 Chinese in the steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," September 25; "Laura," November 21; S. S. "Glenroy," December 25.
FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sumner E. Mead," Oct. 26; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Haze," Dec. 31.
FROM HAMBURG:—"August," Oct. 16.
FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—O. & O. "Gaelic," February 21. P. M. S. S. "China" March 4.
FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)
FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.
FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—At LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Glenartney," S. S. "Glamis Castle," "Laurel," "Flying Spur," S. S. "Prince Friedrich Carl," S. S. "Oxfordshire."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. March 23th; Hongkong M. M. str. March 17th; America O. & O. about 15th or 16th March; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. March 14th.

CARGOES:—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure \$20,000.
Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—General merchandize, 3,940 packages.

REPORTS:—The British S. S. *Perim* reports:—Left Foochow last Saturday afternoon: head wind with heavy sea up to the Kii Channel: off Kii Channel experienced S. E. gale with very high sea; thence winds moderate to Port. Anchored at 7.30.
The British sloop-of-war *Egeria* reports:—Left Kobe on the 27th Feb. Experienced very heavy and thick weather to Port.
The Japanese steamer *Tsuruga Maru* reports:—Strong N.W. winds up to Rock Island; from thence strong N.E. winds. Passed a schooner beating up off Cape Sagami, supposed to be the British schooner *Alerta* with sugar from Formosa for this Port.
The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Left San Francisco on the 7th February, with 19 cabin, 6 Europeans and 59 Chinese steerage passengers, 687.35/40 tons cargo, \$291,492.98 Treasure, and 30 packages U. S. Mails.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Mar. 2	Cosmao	Dumas/Vence	Frch. corvette	1,900	Kobe	Mar. 4	General	Captain.
" 2	Tori	Kamminga	Dutch sch'ner	55	Guam			
" 2	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai & ports	Mar. 10	Mails & General	M. B. M. Co.
" 2	Hudson	Vaughan	Am. barq.	672	Kobe		Ballast	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 2	Seirio Maru	Frahm	Jap. str.	485	Bonin Islands		Govt. service	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,240	Kobe	Mar. 5	Mails & General	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	Beatrice	Williams	Brit. sch'ner	96	Guam		General	M. Cook.
" 5	Sunda	Reeves	Brit. str.	1,704	Hongkong	Mar. 12	Mails & General	P. & O. Co.
" 6	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Shanghai & ports	Mar. 14	Mails & general	M. B. M. Co.
" 7	S. R. Bearse	Oakes		607	Hakodate		Ballast	Kniffler & Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* for Shanghai and ports: For Kobe: Dr. Anderson, Messrs. Yamada, Mouchet, Takas, Kawazu, Kawakami and child, Gaspar, A. C. Sim, Kumagai, Kniffler, Takeyama. For Nagasaki: Rev. Bishop Wiley, Messrs. Kobayashi, and Shibata. For Shanghai: Messrs. J. P. Hazard, A. B. Severin, and R. M. Brown.
Per Jap. str. *Seirio Maru* for the Bonin Islands:—Messrs. E. M. Satow, F. V. Dickins, H. Pryer, G. K. Dinsdale, and Captain Blakiston.
Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Messrs. Harrison, G. P. Reid, Takeda and Wo Ah Chee; and 3 Chinese and 1 Japanese in steerage.
Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—for Kobe: Rev. and Mrs. O. Cary, Mr. and Mrs. Tsukiya, Mr. and Mrs. Kumura, Miss Yamada, Mr. and Mrs. Oestmann, Lieutenant-Colonel Nagaya, Miss Yamada, Messrs. Takiyoshi, Wada, Morishima, Kuroda, Kunemann, Sanada, Reh, Pohl, Bechaku, Takezawa, Kemperman, and Kamada. For Shimonoseki: Mr. and Mrs. Yamagata. For Nagasaki: Mr. Watanabe. For Shanghai: Mrs. J. Mackrill Smith and Mr. P. R. Macbeth.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. March 19th: for Hongkong M. M. str. March 18th: for America O. O. str. March 22nd: for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. March 18th.

CARGOES:—Per Brit. str. *Sunda*, for Hongkong:—For London, 7 bales Silk.
Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$818,789.⁴⁴/₁₀₀
Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$101,591.33.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Akitashima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Calders	Williams	British steamer	1,304	London		Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
City of Tokio	Maury	American steamer	5,053	San Francisco	Feb. 7	P. M. Co.	Hongkong
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steam	1,879	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 7	M. B. M. Co.	
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong		P. & O. Co.	Hongkong
Perim	Linton	Japanese steamer	1,016	London		W. M. Strachan & Co.	
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. M. Co.	
Tamura Maru	Dithlefen	Japanese steamer	558	Kobe		Government Service.	
Tanais	De la Marcella	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	Feb. 22	M. M. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department.	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Feb. 14	M. M. Co. M.	Hongkong.
Toyoshima Maru	Hubbard	Japanese steamer	1,597	Kobe	Feb. 19	M. B. M. Co.	
Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Japanese steamer	880	Kobe	Mar. 1	M. B. M. Co.	
Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,300	Kobe	Mar. 4	M. B. M. Co.	
SAILING SHIPS.							
Angusta Reimers	Thompson	German schooner	270	Takao		Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Aureola	Penery	British barque	947	Newport	Mar. 8	M. M. Co.	
Bertha Marion	Scarlett	British ship	595	London		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Ceriolanus	Cawse	British steamer	1,045	Nagasaki	Jan. 24	Captain.	For fr'ght ch'ter.
Hotspur	Shaw	British barque	520	Antwert		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Iphigenia	Green	German barque	464	Hamburg	Mar. 8	Kniffier & Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands.	Nov. 8	Captain.	
Ladoga	Pierce	American ship	950	New York	Oct. 9	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain.	
Oiseo	Cook	Am. schooner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
Sacramento	Nelson	American ship	1,480	Newca'le n.s.w.	Feb. 17	Walsh, Hall & Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1405	Corvette	Captain Buller, C.B.
" Egeria	4	1011	Sloop	Captain Douglas
GERMAN—Augusta	12	1900	Corvette	Captain Hossenpflug
RUSSIAN—Boyan	8	2000	Corvette	Captain Boyle
" Haydamak	8	1100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff
" Vsadnick	8	1069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras
Ceylon	Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements	Singapore, Penang.
Java	Batavia, Sourabaya.
China	Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan	Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.

RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

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Deputy Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

E. R. Belilios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, A. McIver Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., Ed. Tobin, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpotts, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID MCLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,
Acting Manager

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premium:

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " "	6 "	1	" "
" " "	3 "	½	" "
" " "	1 "	½	" "
" " "	10 days	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,**
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted.			Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.		
1 prize of	\$ 16,000		1 prize of	\$ 60,000	
1 " " "	4,000		1 " " "	25,000	
5 prizes " "	1,000 each.		5 prizes " "	5,000 each.	
8 " " "	500		15 " " "	1,000	
20 " " "	100		20 " " "	500	
450 " " "	30		400 " " "	100	
2 approximations of	\$250		9 approximations of	\$500	
Ticket	\$6.00		2 " " "	250	
			Ticket	\$24.00	

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

The Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

Parents wishful to place children under her charge at the Pension Dogny, may address their enquiries as to terms &c. to the Editor of the *Japan Times*, who is empowered to furnish them.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. I. No. 11.]

March 16, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

TREATY REVISION.—THE MEXICAN DOLLAR.

OUR native contemporary, the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō* (Foreign and Domestic Prices Current) is happy in its choice of phrase, when it stigmatizes the Mexican Dollar as 'an excrescence on Japanese trade.' Its first introduction was a pardonable error; its retention as the coin of account, and medium of exchange, after the first years' experience, was less venial; and its continued imposition now, after Japan has gone to enormous expense in erecting a Mint, which issues a better and more reliable coin, has grown to the dimensions of a gross injustice. The expression is a stronger one than our readers are used to see in these columns, but we employ it advisedly. For, saturated with the conviction that a stable and trustworthy medium of exchange is of prime necessity to healthy commerce, we consider that revision of the currency question should take precedence of revision of any part of the Tariff, and shall support the demand which we believe the Japanese Cabinet intends to make—that, under the Revised Treaty, Mexican Dollars shall only enter Japanese ports as bullion, and that proper respect shall be paid to Japan's indubitable sovereign right of minting the coinage which shall thereafter be the medium of exchange in the Japan Trade.

Art X. of the Treaty between Great Britain and Japan, concluded in August 1858, provided that

"all foreign coin shall be current in Japan and shall pass for its corresponding weight in Japanese coin of the same description"

and it was furthermore provided that

"as some time will elapse before the Japanese will become acquainted with the value of foreign coin, the Japanese Government will, for the period of one year after the opening of each port, furnish British subjects with Japanese coin in exchange for theirs, equal weights being given, and no discount taken for recoinage."

We have characterized this Article as a pardonable error of the Treaty-makers. Their immunity from blame rests on the facts that they could not be expected to be themselves metallurgists, and that the circumstances of pressure and haste under stress of which the Treaty had to be made prevented their procuring the advice of experts, had the necessity for such assistance been apparent to them:—that, naturally enough, the merchants who were at hand for them to consult, conversant with the China trade, and with that alone, anticipated that the Japan trade, dealing with the same products and manufactures, would move in the same grooves:—and that Ministers and merchants alike anticipated a career for the Mexican Dollar in Japan even more successful than that which it had run in China. Twenty years' very costly experience has shown us the fallacy of these views; the Japanese have shot far ahead of the Chinese in their solution of the currency question, as in many other directions; and though the Mexican Dollar

* By 'the same description' was of course meant, silver for silver—gold for gold.

has for years been known to the people, it is not liked; its circulation is now resisted by the most intelligent Japanese financiers, and it has degenerated into an instrument for gambling in native currencies; it is very properly at last formally stigmatized as 'an excrescence on Japanese trade,'—and the time is evidently ripe for its exclusion, as a measure of needful reform.

More than ten years ago, the writer procured a comparative assay from the United States Mint of various issues of Japanese silver *bu* and Mexican dollars. And this assay reported the *bu* of 1858 and five or six subsequent years as being .988 fine:—i. e. containing .988 parts of pure silver in 1,000; against what was then called the 'new' *bu*, which was .898 fine, exactly the same as the average Mexican dollar. Now from this it followed that—so long as, under Art. X of the Treaty, the Japanese government exchanged for foreign merchants, their coin of .988 fineness—the purest in the world—against the foreigners' Mexican Dollars of .898 fineness,—so long they made foreigners a present of 9 per cent. in every transaction, and had to bear, besides, the expense of re-coinage. It was not possible for mercantile human nature to avoid 'going in' for such a 'good thing' as this; and, accordingly, through the months from September, 1858, to November, 1859, larger and larger indents for exchange were made on the Japanese Government, till they culminated in the absurdity of one individual merchant sending in an application for the exchange of \$1,200,666,777,888,999,222,321, which was requested for the applicant and his friends, gentlemen bearing the euphonious names of Messrs. Newman, Oldman, Stick, Walker, Hookit, Snooks, Jack Ketch, &c.* It is hardly necessary, perhaps, to add—that the application was not successful.

When this discovery of the difference in touch between foreign and Japanese coin was made, then ought the remedy to have been applied, the establishment of a Japanese Mint, through which all foreign coin should have been passed. But the Japanese were not prepared to afford such facilities, nor were foreigners willing to help them—and, an end being put to the *bu* and dollar exchange system, except for foreign officials, the Mexican was left to 'find its own level.' It found it, at a considerable discount, and with a different integer—the 'new *bu*.'

* See 'Correspondence respecting the Stoppage of Trade by the Japanese Authorities; Presented to the House of Commons by command of Her Majesty, in pursuance of their address dated February 21, 1860.' It is only fair to the old resident who sent in this preposterous demand, to state that he did it to demonstrate the absurdity of Art X of the Treaty. Of a number of other demands for impossibly large sums, quoted by Mr. Consul General Alcock, in the despatch from which we have culled this *reductio ad absurdum*, some were representative multiples, so to speak, of the actual quantities of coin required for business; the native authorities having told foreign merchants that only infinitesimal fractions of their demands for currency could be met by the then inefficient, hand-worked Mint.

It will be remarked that we leave altogether aside, as apart from our immediate purpose, the history of the co-temporary transactions in Japanese gold coin.

This 'new' *bu* is referred to above in the U. S. Assay report, is of .898 fineness, and was the outcome of these transactions; it having been pointed out to the Japanese Government that our Ambassadors had unwittingly taken an advantage of 9 *per cent.* in the exchange of foreign coin against Japanese, in their ignorance of their respective proportions of pure silver and alloy:—and the recommendation having been given to them to alloy their *bu* down to the standard of our dollar. This they did, and the export of native coin at once ceased, as a matter of course. And then, as the writer maintained, in newspaper articles, private letters, official memoranda &c. ought the occasion to have been seized for the establishment of a Japanese Mint under proper guarantees, and the abolition of the Mexican Dollar, except as bullion, from our treasuries and our ledgers. But the occasion passed, and Japan has suffered for twelve or thirteen years, an additional, unnecessary, avoidable drain on her small metallic reserves. The punishment has not been undeserved, for it has been due,—first to the Japanese government wilfully tampering with the currency, 'and that with intent to deceive,'—and secondly, to their discarding the guidance of honest, educated financiers, and following that of half-educated, dishonest, currency quacks. Having alloyed the old *bu* down to the Mexican Dollar standard, the brilliant idea took possession of them that, by still further reducing the fineness of their coin, they could recoup themselves for the loss of that 9 *per cent.* which they had lost in the period 1858—1865. Instead of which, the country lost still more, for the drain of metal went on. With each successive issue of *bus*, more and more debased, the foreign banker bought up and sent away to the melting pot, the previous issues—till matters reached a climax. An 'old' or 'new' Tokugawa *bu* was a 'curio' which a globe-trotter bought to wear on his watch-chain, and values were represented by a little metallic bank-note, called a *nibu*, a gold washed silver piece nominally worth about sixty-four cents, but intrinsically not worth twenty. The transition from metallic to paper tokens was easy.

With the Restoration came another opportunity for Japan. A powerful and friendly Minister, and a bold, wise banker undertook to restore her credit and to furnish her with funds. The Oriental Bank negotiated the purchase of the Mint, which the Hongkong Government were so foolish as to sell, assisted its establishment, and imported a staff of experienced, trustworthy, and skilful experts to work it. With such a guarantee, it was not difficult to procure for the new Japanese Dollar, edicts from Chinese provincial Governors and other authorities, constituting it a legal tender at various important centres of Chinese trade. All promised well, a silvern future lay before Japan, in which—the Mexican usurper being pushed from his commercial throne, the Japanese *yen* should ascend it. The Japan Mint—become a real money-making machine—would furnish the currency for the whole Far-Eastern trade, and so, in process of time, with the assistance of foreign skill and credit,—and, of course, with due care and economy in other business, would be gradually restored to the country those metallic reserves which foreigners had drained, and which were so sorely needed as a base for the new paper currency to which her necessities had forced her to resort.

Again the opportunity was lost. The vices of the Japanese character—suspicion, instability of purpose, desire for novelty, and conceit,—intervened to undo so much of the good work as had been done. Astute American silver-kings and aspiring Japanese financiers, half-educated in the worst financial schools, succeeded in persuading the Government to attempt—here,—where silver was specially marked out as the proper medium of exchange—the establishment of a gold currency. Remonstrance by English bankers and Mint officials was in vain; millions

of beautiful gold coins, the very perfection of the coiner's art, were turned out by the Osaka Mint; but never to go into circulation in a trade accustomed to a silver medium. Sharp from the dies, fresh, bright, unsullied by use, they were bought with the cheaper silver, exported and melted; foolish, unfortunate Japan having borne the cost of coinage. But the object of her American advisers, they thought, was gained. The coinage of the Japanese silver *yen* having been stopped, and its progress in China checked, room was left for the introduction of the American Trade Dollar. Happily for the future of the Japanese Mint, the American Trade Dollar-makers knew little more about currency than did the Japanese they had diddled. They committed the fundamental error of trying to push out a current coin with another of the same nominal, but of a higher intrinsic value. They turned out a lovely coin, of a trifle better quality, and four grains heavier, than the Mexican Dollar they sought to displace. The inevitable result followed. The Chinese shroffs, to begin with, put the new Dollar at a discount—for which the importers were prepared, content to wait its self-assertion of superiority over the Mexican,—but then, for the sake of the extra four grains of silver, they ruthlessly and systematically sent every one of the pretty things to the melting-pot,—and asked for more. And so the time and opportunity for the superiority-assertion were never afforded.* Again did Japan, to her cost, follow the American lead. A Japanese 'trade dollar' made its appearance, 420 grains weight and .900 fine; which,—last week, when the Mexican Dollar, of 416 grains and .898 fine, was worth in the exchange shops 1.10 paper *yen*,—would only fetch 1.02!

Let us now summarize the results of all these twenty years' costly mismanagement. The dead loss, in cost of coinage, are beyond and outside of our meaning: what do we see as the outcome. Taking all the various paper issues as one, we have, complicating business, and giving opportunities for gambling, six differently valued and conflicting media of exchange:—gold *yen*, silver *yen*, paper *yen*, Japanese trade dollars, American trade dollars and Mexican dollars; with the latter, intrinsically the worst of all the metallic currencies, lording it over the others, and being so manipulated by a few score of clever Chinamen that—twenty years ago, house-boys or office-messengers at eight or ten dollars a month—they can now drive down in broughams to call on their Consul, in sea-otter or sable trimmed robes, and subscribe their thousands to the China Famine Relief Fund. How much longer is this 'sweating' or 'scaling' of the Japan trade to be endured? Verily, our friend of the *Chingui Bukka himpō* is right in calling the Mexican Dollar an 'excrescence' on the Japan trade, and we echo its cry 'Away with it—sweep it out, why cumbereth it the ground!'

Happily the remedy is not far to seek.

THE ERRORS OF THE PRESS.

A FEW weeks ago, when—wishful to impose silence on sinologues, our native printers gave us '*pacote*' for '*pacote*,' we were severely taken to task, and threatened with whipping, by a classical contemporary—who shortly afterwards asked '*quo bono*' something or other was done? Verily, we might then have held the other end of the birch. We were irresistibly reminded of Macaulay's criticism of some slip of Croker's, of which he said that 'if a school-boy under our care had uttered it, our soul should assuredly not spare for his crying.' The book Macaulay was criticising was Croker's '*Boswell's Life of Johnson*' and he says of the part for which his old political foe was responsible, that it was 'ill-compiled, ill-arranged, ill-expressed and ill-printed'—a wholesale and compendious

* Another object of the 'silver kings' was gained, but this is beside the present question.

condemnation with which he winds up the first paragraph of his review of the book, as a parallel to the great Doctor's characteristic phrase, with which he damned a leg of mutton as having been 'ill-fed, ill-killed, ill-kept, and ill-dressed.' And after flogging the unfortunate Croker through half-a-dozen pages of contumely and ridicule, he turns upon the unhappy printer, saying that he had 'done his best to fill text and notes with all sorts of blunders'—and that, between them, the editor and he had 'made the book so bad, that it could not possibly have been worse.'

Macaulay should have had books or newspapers to review, printed in the Far East, by compositors unacquainted with more than the alphabet of the language in which is written the copy they set up. Before us at this moment lies a proof of a few lines of the 'Times of Taiko,' set up by a native compositor evidently not familiar with the English language. For in ten lines we count seventy-two errors. Any young reader of ours, who thinks a journalist in the East has an easy time of it—that to write a couple of leaders a week is as easily done as inspecting a hundred bales of silk, or making up a ship's accounts—and that this is about all an 'editor' here has to do—may readily undeceive himself and damage his eyes, by application at any hour between 8 a.m. and 2 the next a.m., for 'proofs' to correct at our office.

But there are few difficulties or misfortunes in life that have not a humorous side, contemplation of which lightens their burden—if one only knows where to look for it: and we have established a file, whereon we mean to impale from week to week, such misprints as accidentally give us food for mirth, and—if our readers will bear with us—we propose, about once a quarter, to let them so far into the secrets of the 'J. T.,' (the affectionate abbreviation by which this sheet is known to the slaves of the lamp who evoke it from type-cases and contributors' manuscript), as to let them share some of the pangs which a proof-corrector suffers, when his most delicate phrases are massacred, by his 'roses' being turned into 'noses'—or when his sublime is changed to the 'ridiculous' by a dropped line, or a misplaced word.

From an ancient, dusty bundle of old proofs, on which we have just lighted, in the search for a book required to verify a quotation; we cull a few of such printers' travesties of an author's meaning. He has written, for instance, in the concluding paragraph of a political essay:—'We have been led into these remarks, &c.' It is not a little irritating to find his phrase rendered:—'we have bungled into these remarks;' and our dramatic critic,—who has been writing of 'the radiant smile or sympathetic tear, evoked from attentive listeners'—is inclined to tear his hair when his proof tells him of the 'rheumatic pear, cooked by attentive wistlers.' Or how hard a bit when, more fortunate than Job, your enemy has 'written a book,' and you have it given to you to review—your typesetter makes you unwittingly speak the truth, by changing the 'er' in your 'hypercritical,' into an 'o.' The omission or misplacement of stops, too, or the accidental transposition of a line or paragraph from one column into another, are amongst the most frequently recurring amenities of the proof-reader's occupation. Thus, in a shipping report, three lines after the loss of an 'unfortunate sailor' had been misprinted into the loss of an 'importunate tailor;' we have been told that a 'barometer, rising gradually, set the close-reefed main top-sail!' And as an instance of transposition, we may quote from an old proof of a law report, that had got mixed up with an account of the origin of a fire, and read that:—'the court ruled that the three signers of the deed were red silk curtains hanging down by the bed, and the mattresses had signed the contract and were personally responsible?' The substitution of one letter, even, for another, sometimes suggests to the writer quite another train of thought, as, for instance, when

the 'fickleness of woman' is rendered by a careless compositor—'the tickleness of woman.' Sometimes, even, one is tempted to suspect a certain wilfulness in typographical errors. How otherwise, could a 'skilful barrister' be transmuted into a 'spiceful canister;' or how could a prominent resident of a sister port be dubbed the Chairman of the Brown Chamber of Commerce?

The mercantile column of any newspaper is often—to lay readers—a 'funny market and witty report,' instead of a 'money market and City report' without the help of a bungling compositor. People uninterested in the ivory trade for instance, may read with dismay that 'there is a sudden demand in New York for large sound teeth' or that 'unicorns are saleable at quotations;' but when 'powerful commercial friends in China' get altered into 'powerful comical fiends in China' even experts may be excused for asking what sort of support the fortunate firm mentioned is to receive.

Mr. Weller, Senior, laid it down on a memorable occasion, that the great art of letter-writing is to leave off at such a point that your correspondent should wish you had written more. To trifles like these, the axiom has a forcible application. If our readers want any more such gleanings from 'first proofs,' they can be periodically supplied; for the file we mentioned has already upon it some specimen misprints fully as absurd as those we have quoted, everyone of which it a *bonâ fide* excerpt from the waste-paper basket of the first series of the 'Japan Times.'

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE BATTLE OF UYENO (July 4th 1868)

by Dr. LANGE.

[Whoever wanders at the present day through the groves of the temple of Uyeno, one of the three celebrated burial places of the last family of Shōguns, will be reminded by a bronze monument that these sacred shades have not always breathed peace and quiet, but that the wild cry of war has resounded through them. On the fourth of July 1868 the loyal retainers of the house of Tokugawa defended these holy places in vain against an overwhelming force of the enemy, and their overthrow placed the ancient Capital of the Shōguns completely at the mercy of the Imperialists.]

One of the higher officers of this band, Amano Hachiro Tadatsugu, was taken prisoner soon after the battle, and employed his enforced leisure in noting his experiences at Uyeno. Having died in prison, a scholar named Takabatake published them under the title of "*Uyeno sensō jitsuki*" or "True relation of the battle of Uyeno." Although the work is not exhaustive,—the writer reporting merely what he saw himself,—nor is it very well arranged, yet it is important as a contribution to the history of that remarkable period. On this account, the following translation is communicated to this Society.—]

Our divine country was the land of loyalty, of obedience to parents, of sincerity towards friends, and of justice and equity towards all our fellowmen. In these virtues it has from olden time been inferior to no other country. And why is it that now all of us, from the Emperor himself, down to the meanest of his subjects, not excluding even my lord, (1) the greater or the lesser princes, or the 80,000 Kika, (2) have turned away from the path of these virtues. But should I, a son of this divine country, forget the duty of a vassal, namely to wipe out the disgrace which has come upon my native land? In earlier days, I threw my whole strength into plans for the expulsion of the foreigner and the closing of the ports; and lately, in a painstaking and elaborate memorial, I desired to remove the origin of

(1) i. e. the Shōgun.

(2) Kika is the collective name of the "Hatamoto" and "Gokenin," vassals of the Shōgun.

the disadvantages which arose from foreign intercourse; but the selfish officials, who thought only of their own advantage, would not adopt my proposals. Then when the might of the Shōgun was broken at Kiōto and Osaka, and he returned to the East, and they did not wake for a moment from their long dream;—I could not look on quietly any longer.

I collected people of a like opinion with myself and on the 13th March 1868 about a hundred brave and true men, who were unanimous in their views, assembled together at the Higashi Honguanji temple in Yedo. At this meeting Shibusawa Seiichirō was elected captain, and I was chosen second in command. We announced this on the same day at Nishimaru, (3) and having received permission to do so, we called ourselves *Shōgitai* or the party which makes justice clear. In a short time the number of associates reached more than 300, and as the Shōgun had withdrawn to Daijin in Uyeno, we assembled in different temples outside that place to guard him.

On the 23rd March, Seiichirō was appointed Tōdori (4) and I was made Tōdōrinami (4).

On the 3rd of May, my old master removed his residence to Mito, (5) and Nishimaru fell into the hands of the Imperial forces. But we could only gnash our teeth with rage at these occurrences. The treasures of the Shōgun, which had been handed down in his family from generation to generation, were brought to Uyeno and placed in the Chief temple there. As my band received orders to protect these treasures, and also the Prince Rinōji-no-Miya (6) we stationed ourselves for this purpose in the different temples at Uyeno. Our might increased daily.

In the middle of this month two court nobles, who had command of the Hokurokudo, took up their quarters in the Rokugo-yashiki in Asakusa, with the object of removing their camp to Uyeno. Tsuda Sansaburō Sambō (7) led 1,500 soldiers with rifles and cannon to Uyeno and surrounded the hill on all sides. Odai Kurata and I had an interview with him, in consequence of which the troops remained there three days and then withdrew again. Our band earned high praise for this from Prince Arisugawa no Miya.

On the 20th May, I was made Tōdori, and on the 7th day of the intercalary month, I was appointed Kashira-nami. Towards the end of June, our band reached 1,000, and still more came. (Here follows a list of their numbers, according to which, the band consisted of 1,000 men with 56 officers and 1,550 peasants, shopkeepers &c. who fought with them.) These men had set before themselves the task of restoring the Shōgun to his former dignity.

Secret messengers came repeatedly to Rinōji no Miya to require him to appear at Kiōto and enquire after the health of the Emperor. In the same manner, messengers came still oftener from Nishimaru with the order that he should go to the castle. But the Prince steadfastly determined to entrust himself entirely to our band, and from this time forward desired the restoration of the Shōgun. For these his sentiments we were very grateful to him.

Although we consulted frequently with the abbot Chikurin Kakuōin, were in alliance with the lords of Oshiu and Dewa, and longed for the restoration of the Shōgun, time passed away. The people of our party and those who belonged to the lower orders, committed many lawless deeds. They killed three Satsuma men, who were walking near the temple of Tenōji; they murdered people belonging to Chikuzen and Chikugo who were crossing the "three bridges." One party by a sudden assault drove in the guard of a transport of ammunition which was going from Inahiu to Oshiu, and seized the ammunition, its escort and a horse. All this was strictly prohibited; but as there were some of the people of our party who paid no heed to any orders, we were much harrassed by this conduct. At that time, no more Imperialist soldiers were to be seen outside the Sujikai gate in the neighbourhood of Shitaya.

Ever since the intercalary month, people desired to

(3) Portion of Yedo Castle in which the Shōgun's offices were.

(4) Both titles of military ranks.

(5) The Imperial Envoy had especially required as a mark of his subjection that the Shōgun should retire to his native town, Mito.

(6) A Prince of the Imperial house was always priest of Iyeyasu's temple, and had his residence at Uyeno.

(7) Sambō:—Military Counsellor.

destroy our camp. After council had been held, and inquiries made several times at Kiōto, it seemed, on the 24th June, as if they were about to attack it. Still further outrages were committed by some of our troops, and the self-seeking officials of the Shōgun treated us therefore like people of another province, and what was still worse, regarded us as their enemies.

It looked as if the heavens themselves announced evil to our country in this year. From the beginning of spring rain fell unceasingly and there were not three fine days in the month of June. On the morning of the 9th of May our Head Quarters were at Kanshōin; in consequence of the heavy rains a land slip occurred and a dam burst; the wall of the residence of Prince Rinōji fell in for a space of many feet. Were these evil omens sent by the Shōgun's ancestor, or by the founder of the temple?

At seven o'clock on the morning of the 4th of July, I made a reconnaissance about Uyeno with Kasuga and Kobayashi; and as we were on the way between Hirōkoji and Negishi, we heard cannon firing in the neighbourhood of Kiridōshi. While we were hastening back, we heard seven reports, one after the other. When we got to the lake, the fight had already commenced and some of our party fought before the Ana no Inari, with one and a half pounders and small muskets. I crossed the hill by the Inarimon, entrusted the protection of the precious portraits of the ancestor of the house of Tokugawa to Ikeda Osami no Kami, and sent him hastily to guard the prince at Hombō. I then distributed the troops among the eight gates; and then I led the eight companies which were under me to the Kuromon, where the battle was raging. My proper position was at Yanakamon, but no enemy was to be seen there.

As Sakai Saisuke commanded at Kuromon at about eight o'clock, I ascended the Sanōdai and took over command of the artillery. The enemy fired from the second story of a tea house in Hirokōji, and also from other tea houses; their cannon were placed on the other side of the three bridges, and near Matsuzakaya. Our men threw numerous fireballs into houses, but on account of the continuous rain, the balls were damp and did not ignite. At eleven o'clock a fire broke out in the lower part of the Otokoza in Tenjin, but it was not sufficiently large to call off the enemy. The latter showed themselves more, and fought bravely in order to conquer their opponents at once. As our party had never from the beginning shown any disposition to be obedient or subordinate, we had neither mounds nor trenches to defend ourselves, so when the fight occurred, we could do nothing but put up two or three mats for protection. But as these were no defence against cannon balls, we had many wounded.

Perceiving that fighting was taking place at Yanakamon, I went there at 10 o'clock. I found Ogawa Hanamata leading my troops. With his division of about a hundred men, he had repulsed the enemy with severe loss; the temple had been set on fire, and the enemy had disappeared.

As I was returning to head-quarters, I received intelligence of a fight which was raging at Kuromon, and therefore I had no time to take my breakfast. I hastened immediately to Sammon, and thence to Sanōdai, which I again defended for some time. Shortly after twelve, I relinquished the defence of Kuromon to Sakai, and that of the hill to Kondō Takeō, and returned to Head Quarters. But before I had time to give orders at all the gates, news came that matters at Kuromon were critical, and I therefore rushed immediately back to Sanōdai. On the way, at Kiyomidzu temple, I met a Kika, Ogawa Tōzaburō, and some officers with skirmishers and foot-soldiers, in all about forty men, who were still quite fresh. I ordered them to go to Sanōdai and fight bravely there as Kuromon seemed in danger. They agreed unanimously, and I shouted to them "Follow me," and went in front. When I came up to the five pounder cannon of the first company, I looked around, and not a single one followed me! I did my office no shame at this moment, when I had reason to complain of the weakness of the house of Tokugawa, but performed my duty. I ordered the second officer of the first company, Hayashi Hanzō, to fire the cannon without interruption. The battle was now so violent that I helped the men to drag about the carriages of the cannon from place to place.

Since Sakai moved to Kuromon in the morning, he had not had the slightest rest, and had received the greatest assistance from all the higher officers. The killed and wounded on Sanôdai were then numerous. The guard-house on Kuromon was so ruined from shot that there was not a single corner where one could lie down. It also seemed a little later as if the defence were doubtful.

I had arranged to attack the enemy with the eighth company, and with the heavily armed soldiers, but found it quite impossible, as the soldiers ran about here and there. I then betook myself to Head Quarters, in order to collect the Totsushitsutai (soldiers armed with swords and spears) and lead them to where the battle was raging. On the way, I saw Kasuga calmly drinking saké. Since morning he had done nothing but run about between Sammon and Chiudô, as if what was occurring had no interest for him. I had no time to reproach him, and hastened on, when a messenger came from Tenôji to ask for assistance. The enemy had again returned to the attack, he said, and violent battle was going on at the entrance to Yanaka. As I was returning to the Head Quarters, Honamata came himself to fetch assistance. When I looked around at the four or five places where the battle was going on, I saw Kuromon was in most danger. On the other hand, if the entrance to Yanaka fell, there remained but a small garnison in Hombo. I was much perplexed as to what I should do. My own men ran about here and there, and ten did not remain in their places. While I was counting the other soldiers I was informed that there were still three hundred men in Shitadera, who had been in no important engagement since early morning. I made up my mind to go there, and, dividing them into three parts, to lead a hundred to Yanaka, to leave a hundred behind as a guard, and to go with the rest to Sanodai. With this reinforcement, we could have held out until sunset. I had been on my feet since morning, and as I was consequently very tired, I took a horse. As I was crossing before Hombo, more than a hundred of our soldiers ran suddenly out from Chiudô, as if seized by panic. I enquired the cause of this, and was told that Kuromon had already fallen, and that Sakai was dead; also that Kondo, who was shot in the side, was now being brought in on Arai's shoulders. Oyaushi Ringoro came just then, and he also was shot in the arm. The enemy crowded behind him like a rising flood, and advanced rapidly. Then I rose in the saddle, and called out with a loud voice:—"Here before the gate of the temple are the graves of generations of your lord's family, and also the treasure which you have to guard! Where can you live if you abandon this place! Then up, fight bravely, fulfil your trust, and die a noble death!"

When I called this out, Okubo Kii no Kami advanced with the Toshogu (8) flag. This man had formerly been overseer of the officials and was about fifty years of age. I got off my horse and followed about a step behind him, Arai Rintaro coming the same distance behind me. Then, as well as I remember, a hundred men followed us. But when the contest should have become a bloody one at Chiudô, Kii no Kami was struck by a ball in the forehead. As it was not a musket ball, it made a wound about three inches wide which looked like a pomegranate. He lost his helmet, and fell backwards to the earth. When the soldiers saw this, they broke up their ranks, and not one of them remained in his place. Only myself, Arai, and another who was no doubt a vassal of Kii no Kami, remained behind. Thus the might of the house of Tokugawa was destroyed.

We could not persuade ourselves to leave Kii no Kami, who was still living, lying there; and we carried him to the house of the gatekeeper of Hombo. Meantime the enemy assaulted the Hombo gate from the outside, and there was no one to defend it. Arai and I closed the small gate, and went, in much anxiety on account of the Prince, to the inner apartments of the building. It looked as if he had just fled, so that nothing remained for us but to watch over his future fate. I followed his footsteps to Negishi. I enquired there what direction he had taken, and heard that he had fled to Mikawashima. (9) On the way there, the reports of the cannon and muskets never ceased. I heard subsequently that our soldiers had again

assembled, and had offered a slight resistance before Hombo. Although many engagements had occurred since the morning, I have only described those which I saw myself.

As I came to Mikawashima, I noticed the abbot Chikurin amongst the fugitives. We gnashed our teeth with rage, and sighed, but our sorrowful hearts spake not a word. He led by the hand a young priest, who wore a black dress of a peculiar appearance, and had on his feet old straw sandals. His left hand was held by the abbot, and in his right he carried a garland of roses. When he saw me speak to the bishop, he enquired my name, and was told that I was Amano Hachiro. Then I heard for the first time that he was Prince Rinoji, and I bowed several times involuntarily with streaming eyes. As others could see us, the abbot forbade this. I therefore dissembled my awe, and enquired where they were going. The abbot replied that they would go to Aidzu, and as they refused my request to be allowed to accompany them, I took my departure with many bows. I had previously heard from a poet the words:—"Wear the straw sandals thus. His eyes filled with tears. One hears from afar the sound of guns." (10) The situation described in this poem was then before our eyes.

When I was alone, the tears streamed down my cheeks; but I dared not give way to my grief, because the flying soldiers constantly followed me, and I found myself forced to lead about a hundred of them. We crossed Dokuan-yama, went through Sugamo and came at nightfall to Gokokuji in Otowa. (11) We went in here, and begged permission to rest a little, and to get some food and drink. The people kindly gave us these, and in a little brook which flowed within the temple grounds, we washed off the dirt of the morning, and rested ourselves in the guest-chamber. After we had refreshed ourselves with food and drink, we took counsel together as to our future movements. As I had my own mind made up I remained in the town, as did most of the others; but some of them fled on the road which leads to Koshia. I left the temple at 12 o'clock that night, and betook myself to the house of a good friend, where I remained several days. The others hid themselves with their friends at their own will.

Reflecting over the fight of that day, I have come to the conclusion that we were somewhat more than two thousand strong; but we did not wish to appear enemies of the government, and therefore we made no entrenchments for defence. The enemy on the other hand was drawn from twenty-one provinces, and was nearly twenty thousand strong. The area of Ueno is about 300,000 Tanbo. There were eight gates and Tenoji temple to be guarded. We should not have been able to hold out three days, but I did not expect that we should be annihilated in one day. More than a hundred of us were killed, (12) and the number of wounded is unknown. The enemy's loss must have exceeded 600; and the number of their wounded is also unknown.

Two persons, Soshida Sodatarô and Katô Yosaburô, ought to have brought assistance from without. It was arranged with them that they should fall on the enemy's flanks with more than 2,000 men. Moreover we did not think that those who remained of the eighty thousand *Kika* would look on calmly, because they knew well that the teeth are cold when the lips are torn away. (13) It was the greatest folly to have trusted in these dastards. Up to the end of the battle, no help came to us from either of these. It is evident that neither of these men was fit for such a commission, and that, alas, was my fault! Woe! Woe! what a day was that!

Since Bishop Tenkai built the temple on Ueno, two hundred years have passed away, and this was the burial-place of several generations of our lords. The temples attached to it, Sammon, Chiudô and Hom'ô, which were adorned with pearls, gold and silver, and which were as lovely as flowers, were burnt to ashes by a fire which broke out after the battle. Many hundred priests from the thirty-six temples, became in a single day houseless beggars. It would be impossible to estimate the total loss. I

(10) These are the words of a faithful servant who binds the straw sandals on his flying master.

(11) All places between Ueno and Oji.

(12) According to the statement of the priest Butsuma, 236 fell.

(13) After the Japanese proverb *Kuchibiru yaburete ha samushi*.

(8) Posthumous name of the first Shôgun. The flag probably bore this name.

(9) A village north of Ueno.

was somewhat consoled in my affliction, however, to hear after about a month that the prince had arrived in Aidzu, and that Kankuoin was with him.

The soldiers who remained behind were hidden here and there, but they longed constantly for me, and begged for some instructions. I had already hit on a plan, which I racked my brains while in my hiding-place to put into execution.

During the day I went about with my head cautiously covered with a large hat, and at night I dared not step loudly. I appeared at one place, and soon again hid myself in another. I wandered about with the greatest circumspection; but at last about fifty days later on the morning of the 13th day of the 7th month, I was captured by the Imperialist soldiers under Inada, in the house of Ishiwara Bunjirô in Honjô, Yedo; and as I had no time to kill myself, I was bound and led for examination to Nishimaru."

(Here follows a long complaint about the misfortunes which the author had previously experienced, and the hardships which he bore as an officer of the Shogitai. As this has but slight interest for the reader, I give instead an account of the burial of the slain added by the editor.)

"Although the Shogitai fought bravely, they were defeated in half a day, because everything did not go as it ought during the battle. They fell among the trees and brushwood, here and there, by their own swords, or by the shot of the enemy. Hence the battle was soon finished. In the fire which broke out after the battle, the chief temple Kuanyei, which was sparkling and adorned with gold, Kichijôkaku, Hokkedô and Jôgiôdô, as well as Ruriden, Hombô, the two pagodas Ruizô and Unsui, a clock tower and the numerous houses of the priests were consumed, and the place looked empty and lonesome. There was no one to give directions, and the corpses which lay around could not be buried. Relations and friends crept about to examine the dead. It was a time of sorrow at which one still weeps. The only sound was that of the wind rushing through the green pines, and the fate of the dead seemed to be that they should be buried in the beaks of the hungry ravens.

"In the Temple of Entsuji on the Mino road, to the north of Uyeno, there lived a priest named Butsuma, who out of pity, begged permission to bury the dead. In the northern corner of Sanôdai on a grass plot behind Kiyomidzu he built a tea-tent, and had the corpses which lay stretched out all over Uyeno collected by some peasants, and burned in the usual manner. He took the ashes in an urn to his own house, and built a monument there. Since that time he has continually observed the festivals for these erring souls which will never return. This was in truth a noble deed. But on Uyeno hill where the spirits dwell and hover about, there was nothing but a miserable looking wooden seat overgrown with moss, and therefore three warriors, Ogawa, Momokawa and Saito, all from Shidzuoka, received permission about the end of 1874, to erect a stone wall and a bronze monument on the spot where the burning of the corpses took place, and to have a festival in memory of the soldiers who fell on the side of the Shôgun. The work was commenced in the beginning of the following year, and progressed rapidly, as large contributions were made. Who that knows this can restrain tears of gratitude that the stream of compassion of the Government should ripple over even the dry bones of the dead, and that thereby the souls of those who in life pursued a false end, should not remain uncommemorated."

CURLING. II.

(Continued from our last).

THE position is now this; as any one can see who has followed the play so far with white and black buttons or draughtsmen. The Minister's is the winning stone, close to the tee, but the Grocer and the Laird have each a stone next best to his. It is therefore clear that if the Minister's single stone can be got rid of, Andy's side will score two points. Now the best way in which this can be done is by an 'outwick' on the Laird's first stone, which lies within a couple of feet of the Minister's, but a little off to the right. 'Outwicking' means so touching the stone on the outside edge as to drive it forward at an angle, and the Laird's stone is so placed, that to touch it in this way on the right-hand edge will send it full against the Minister, send him

slipping past the tee, and leave the Laird in the vacated place of honour. Such a shot as this requires the utmost delicacy of touch, but the Souter kens full well that his old opponent, Andy, is perfectly equal to the occasion. He therefore plays his first stone to guard the weak point, and this he does effectively. Andy, however, has got another string to his bow. When the Tutor's first stone touched the Laird's second, its 'ponther' was almost exhausted, and swerving gently to the left, it rested in such a position that its inside edge is fully within view, and though a long way off the tee, still it affords the possibility of an 'inwick' which is just the opposite to an 'outwick,' and in fact the first half of what billiard-players call a 'cannon.' That grey old carle Andy has had his eye on this all the time, while making great pretence of intending to 'outwick' the Laird in on the Minister, and the more excitable Souter has fallen into the trap. To be sure he could hardly have guarded both the points at once. The Laird, who knows Andy's real intention, chuckles as he taps the side of the tutor's stone with his broom, to which old Andy responds with a nod and then plays the shot to perfection. His stone just grazes the tutor's—only enough to alter the line of its course without losing its way, and then, diligently 'souped' by the Tutor and the Grocer, plays pat on the Minister's back and sending him past the tee, remains in his place, the winning stone. 'Tut-Tut-Tut' clucks the old Minister—'Eh man, what's to dae the noo?' asks Broomielands, and the boy's exultant face falls into an expression of dismay. Only one more stone to play and the Forester with the last one to follow. Well, if you can't win all, you'd best lose little—Andy's side has the three best stones:—his own, one of the Laird's and one of the Grocer's. So the only thing to be done is to deprive them of two of their points at least, and this the Souter does by cannily driving up the Minister's last stone into second place. Andy is too wise to risk doing mischief, which he might easily do; so plays his last stone a 'hog' and is content with taking the one point for the 'end.'

And so the game proceeds, changing end for end of the rink, till one side first numbers 13 or 15, as may be agreed on. The full game is 21, but is seldom played, except in matches, as it would last almost all the day. Two or three hours see the first game finished, and then adjournment is made for half-an-hour to the little broom-thatched hut where oaten cake and cheese, milk for the boys and whisky and water for the men, are discussed with the appetite that only such exercise in such an atmosphere can give. The cheese specially receives the Laird's commendation: he declares there is no such cheese ever to be got at his own table; that it has a perfectly remarkable flavour—something quite peculiar. He appeals to the Minister and his sons' tutor for their opinion:—the tutor, who has just helped himself to another huge slice, perfectly agrees with him, as well as he can with his mouth full of oaten cake, but the divine's grey eye twinkles, as he mutters a quotation, in broad Aberdonian Latin, to the effect that 'hunger is the best sauce.' And—odd to say—when, after dinner, the other half of the same cheese,—which Broomielands' gude wife had promptly send up to Tayside, on her husband's return from the curling—appears on the table, it has not just the same flavour it had on Ballyarroch.

Days are short in winter in Scotland, and soon after three, and after another game, which has quite worked off the effects of the whiskey at lunch, the sun, which has never shown very high above the horizon, begins to get red and dim, and a brown mist slowly rises to shroud his face. Some of us have far to go; there's but a very young moon, and six miles tramp through heavy snow is much after a day's curling. So, with just a 'deoch an dorus' which nearly empties the fat stone bottle—stones are carried into the hut, plaids resumed and gaiters buttoned on, and with cordial 'gude e'en t'yo's, and the mystic hand-clasp and interchange of the 'curler's grip' and pass-word, we all start on our several ways for home.

A merry party is ours, bound for Tayside, and at first a little noisy. Young Malcolmslaw has to play the game over again, with all its varying fortune, to his brothers and the keeper, and young Geordie and Angus are equally anxious to give the details of the other rink which they were watching, and where they were allowed to help in the 'soupin.' Then the 'Tutor' has to be rallied on that shocking bad shot of his, which put up an

adversary's stone into the winning place, and which would have lost the game, but for Andy's subsequent magnificent 'draw.' The Laird and the Forester, a few paces ahead, are deep in a discussion on the propriety of thinning out certain larch plantations, the Laird having recently got some new lights on the subject from a book in Mudie's last box; but which Andy, with all the sturdy independence and conservatism of the old Scotch servant, apparently treats with ineffable contempt, stigmatizing them, even, as 'havers.' The good old Minister, who is coming to dine with us at Tay-side, is meanwhile giving the attentive young Englishman, a detailed history of the 'roarin game,' as no man is better qualified to do than he—for who but he sent that anonymous advertisement to the *North British Advertiser* in 1838, calling together the keen curlers of all districts to form a Grand Curling Court, an idea which at once took such root and flourished so well, that the Caledonian Curling Club is now second only in importance to the Masons or the Agricultural Society; numbering nearly 400 affiliated clubs in Scotland alone, and as many, if not more, 'furth' of the Land o' Cakes, in Canada and elsewhere. He little thinks that "a chiel's amang ye takin' notes, And 'faith, he'll prent it"—twenty five years afterwards and thirteen thousand miles away. Little knows he of this, but goes on to point out to his young friend, how admirable a game is curling, how healthily, invigorating, and conducive to the morality and happiness of the neighbourhood. Some of our partners in the 'spiel' of to-day, to wit; farmers, full-bodied, good men of their hands, but with no great love of the books, and with nothing to do all these long winter months save, now and then, to see to the thrashing out of a few quarters of wheat, or the fatting of their young stock. Whiskey, the demon he has continually to fight against, and pray and preach against—here out on the ice and in the keen frosty air, is a very different thing to the same in a close kitchen beside a roaring fire. And to see—too—how it brings all classes together. Here the Tutor interpolates 'hunting' and 'cricket' as equally good for the purpose. But no—the old gentleman will not allow it. Cricket, he owns, he knows little about—but now 'could I play cricket, think you, at my time of life, or imagine Broomielands running after a ball?' No—he allows cricket to be a fine 'play for the laddies'—(the old gentleman always lapses into the vernacular when eager in argument—fence) but for grown men, especially Scotchmen, give him the 'gowf' or the 'roarin' game'. "D'ye mind, Jamie,"—addressing the Souter, who is plodding along beside us with his dot-and-go-one step,—the Souter has aye been a little short in one leg, since he fell down the old quarry-pit coming home from Willie Henderson's wedding, when he'd been playing the fiddle:—"d'ye mind that gran' bonspiel your feyther tellt ye of when the Deuk made Tam Pate the cadger, the skip o' his side?" The Souter minds it fine—his father, a better curler even than himself, was never tired of telling how he had played with the Duke; and so proceeds to give us all the details of the grand match in 1784, between Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, represented by the Duke of Hamilton and Macdougall of Castle Semple, with seven good men and true a side; when the Duke, selecting the best men of his county, made Tam Pate, whose ordinary business was that of hawking about fish, the 'skip' of his side. And how the game got so close—the Souter's father, who was playing with Castle Semple, having played what all thought the deciding stone—that the Renfrewshire men were all shouting 'Up brooms!'—when Tam made such a double in and out wick, and so 'kiggle caggled' his stone 'to an' fro'—that it slipped into the tee, and just won the spiel for the Deuk by an inch-and-a-half.

Then Andy—for the Laird and the Forester, attracted by the oft-heard tale, have dropped back to listen to the queer old Souter,—has another yarn to spin, telling how he once played by torch light to finish a great match and when, a thaw having set in, the rink hail to shortened to thirty yards, for the ice sagged, and there was 2 inches of water on it from the hog line to the tee. And so we bogaile the way, till nearing the 'toun,' as the home farm is called in Fifeshire, the Forester and Game-keeper and Souter drop off to their respective cottages. The youngsters are getting sleepy, and the men are a little tired and look forward to the hot footbath and the bright dinner table with a quiet dreamy contentment, that finds its best expression

in silence. And so the quiet of the winter's night settles down upon us on our homeward way, a silence hardly broken, save when the touch of a plaid brings down a bush-load of snow and a querulous chirp and quick rush of wings tells that it has disturbed a sleeping bird. For a footfall makes no sound on the evenly fallen snow in the West Avenue, and the swing to and fro of the iron gate closing as we leave it behind, seems to make the hush deeper as it settles on its latch. The patricks call to each other now and then on the Broomieland knowes across the valley and a distant bark is occasionally heard afar, too far to make Topsy do more than wink with one ear; but, beyond these, there is not a sound. Poor little Topsy, she is too tired with her day's fun to note even the rabbits which scud across the avenue every now and then, and is thinking of the hot red glow of that drawing-room fire before which she will soon curl herself up into an undistinguishable ball of hair. There is something almost oppressive in the silent night; the trees in their veils of snow, take strange weird shapes that make one think of ghost stories, and the pale blueish light of the young moon 'with the old moon in her arm,' gives such a strange uncanny look to all the familiar shapes, that we boys break into a run as the old house comes into view, and dash up the steps, and into the warm, bright hall, with quite a shout of glee to find ourselves safe again at home.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY-NIGHT, MARCH 15th.

THE City of Tokio left for Hongkong on Sunday last with the enormous cargo of 4,198 tons, principally rice, the largest, we believe, ever shipped from this port, and the *Tibre* for the same port on Tuesday morning, with the French mail, due in London April 19th. The weekly Shanghai steamer left on Thursday, and a Hakodate steamer on Friday. The *Takio Maru* arrived on the 14th from Shanghai and ports, and the *Volga*, with the French mail, on the 15th, two days ahead of time and bringing the London mail of January 25th. The *Sunda* with the English mail of the 1st of February left Hongkong at 10 a.m. on Thursday last.

On Saturday afternoon (9th instant) a meeting of subscribers to the Yokohama General Hospital was held, Sir Harry Parkes occupying the chair. The lengthy report and accounts of the past three years were read and accepted, and a new committee appointed,—Messrs. Wilkin, Dickins, Enslie, Grauert, Foster, Fraser, Allen, Milson and Von Hemert. In deference to the generally expressed wish of the community, the *honoraria* offered to the hard worked surgeons who attend the patients was increased to something that makes their labour not quite gratuitous, and an appeal to the residents for increased subscriptions was resolved on. So necessary and useful an institution as this requires no recommendation at our hands.

We regret to notice that the Japanese Government has declined to abandon its second case against Mr. Hartley for importation of opium; but as the case is undecided we cannot say more at present on the subject. The amount of work just now thrown on our industrious Law Secretary, Mr. Wilkinson, is quite phenomenal, Mr. Cope occupying his attention with more cases, which will take some weeks to decide, as well as the important opium case alluded to above. We note, by a late *London and China Express*, that Mr. French, the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court, has left England for Shanghai, so that Mr. Hannon, the Assistant-Judge designate (whose appointment, we remark, has at last been officially announced) may shortly be expected here to relieve Mr. Wilkinson of part of his work.

Mr. Russell Robertson, H.B.M. Consul, is shortly to sail for Europe on long leave; and we hear with very great satisfaction, that he has had the good sense to decline acceptance of any mark of acknowledgment of his services, such as dinner,—ball,—or (preposterous idea) a *purse*! which some inconsiderate admirers have proposed to give him. A British Consul serves his Queen, and looks to that fountain of honour for any mark of approbation of long and faithful work, which, in accordance with the custom and traditions of the service, She may be pleased to bestow. Civil servants of less happily governed countries may stand in need of some certificate of good conduct on such occasions as these—but the offer of such to an English Consul is an impertinence, and his own dignity and that of the service to which he belongs are best consulted by its immediate repression. Mr. Robertson has done his duty, and carries home with him the satisfactory consciousness that his ability and industry, his tact and urbanity, have won for him the confidence of his superior officers and of his fellow countrymen. The latter will welcome him back on his return, with pleasure; and he will, in due time, receive from the former, the proper rewards of his work. We are sure that Mr. Robertson desires nothing more.

Reuter's telegrams from Europe this week have not told us much that we have not either known or anticipated; but the tone of private messages has been decidedly better, and quite an impulse has been given to the silk market. Some improvement in the position of the native currency (we sincerely hope that our explanation of last week, which has been freely translated and commented on, may have aided in its recovery) has taken place; and during the past two days, a very large quantity of yarns—over 3,000 bales—have been sold or contracted for. These signs of elasticity are hopeful ones, and we trust that peace in Europe may give us a good and brisk year's trade here in 1878.

From China we continue to receive the most dismal accounts of the progress of the Famine. We have fully expressed our views on the subject and have nothing to add to what we have already written. It is gratifying to note that the Japanese have come forward in a very handsome manner to aid in the attempt to relieve the distress; the Emperor and Empresses heading the subscription list with 2,000 *yen*, the Ministers following with 10,000 and other officials offering each a day's pay. The sum of subscriptions has already reached over 25,000 *yen*.

There is distress enough, too, to be relieved here—unhappily. Over 200 houses were burnt three or four nights ago, in a fire at *Asakusa*. It is much to be feared that until all *Yedo* is gradually burnt down, and rebuilt in brick, these large fires will be chronic. We hear, by the way, from Kobe, that on Wednesday last No. 109 one of the best houses in the settlement, the property of Captain Byrne, was burnt. This has a special interest to the writer, and at least one reader, of this column,—for we lived in it.

From Nagasaki we hear with regret of a very unfortunate accident. The following account of it we cull from the *Rising Sun* of March 6th:—

"It is our painful duty to record a sad accident, which occurred here on Wednesday night last, by which the brother of our German Consul, Mr. Iversen, lost his life. From what we can learn, it would appear that this gentleman, who was here on a visit for the benefit of his health, in returning to his brother's house, after a short walk, had evidently forgotten that the Sagami Bridge was impassable, and attempting to cross it, there being no barricade it is surmised to arrest his progress, fell over the side, striking his head against one of the stone abutments, and was drowned. The body was recovered some time afterwards, and was interred on the following day; the funeral being attended by a large number of friends and sympathisers."

From India we hear of another death, that of a man whose name is known and respected over the civilized world. The *Friend of India* tells us that Doctor Alexander Duff is dead. The news was received by telegram in Calcutta on the morning of the 13th February. It cannot be said to have been unexpected, for the aged missionary had been slowly sinking for some time, and his son, Mr. W. P. Duff, had been about two months ago, summoned to England by news of his father's dangerous illness. "From more recent intelligence," says the *Friend* "we gathered that he had rallied a little; but the end has at last come, and the name of Dr. Duff has passed into the pages of history. His life has not been short; his life's labour has been nobly done, and the rich results remain with us. There is no room for plaintive regrets at the close of such a life. He has left this earth full of years and honour; a 'good and faithful servant' of the Master whom he obeyed."

Of course the most prominent social event of our week has been the Ninth Performance of the Yokohama Amateur Dramatic Club, who favoured the community on the evening of the 13th inst. with a repetition of Sullivan's triumphviretta, '*Cox and Box*,' followed by Madison Morton's broad farce of '*The Two Bonnycastles*.' We

are glad to be able to chronicle a legitimate success, though the Gaiety Theatre was hardly as well filled as the performance deserved.

The music to *Cox and Box* is thoroughly original, full of diversity, bright, tuneful and pleasing. First a short, brilliant Overture (which was splendidly played by the little string band) condenses some of the melodies afterward recognised in the various numbers. A short dialogue between *Cox* and his landlord introduces the martial song of the old pensioner, in which he brilliantly and effectively relates his experience in the militia.

(And here we must take the opportunity of criticising the audience, as well as the performers. When a performance of this character is given, which necessitates much careful study and practice, punctuality in attendance is demanded by all the laws of good breeding. And when ten or fifteen minutes' grace have been given by the orchestra, to disturb them, in their rendering of their work, and the great majority of their hearers in their enjoyment of delicate music, by the seeking of seats and greeting of friends, amounts simply to discourtesy, only excusable—if so,—by alleging want of thought. There is little doubt that the omissions we noticed in *Bouncer's* opening piece were due to the restlessness of his audience, quite enough to cause a temporary lapse of memory in any amateur. We trust that these hints will not have been given in vain.)

Bouncer's reminiscences of his 'cavalry' exploits are followed by a dialogue in recitative between himself and his lodger, respecting sundry articles which *Cox* misses from his apartment; the account of the disappearance of his coals being particularly touching. *Bouncer's* outraged feelings at the bare idea of "his friendly lodger" suspecting his honesty were vividly portrayed and the duet finally subsides into the old familiar '*Rataplan*,' *Bouncer's* confident assertion "I'm a military man" being admirably contrasted with *Cox's* cynical and sarcastic repetition of the phrase.

The next piece is the exquisite Lullaby, sung by *Box*, who, tired and worn out with his night's work on a morning paper, can hardly keep his eyes open, while the bacon frizzles on the grid. This lovely melody is a perfect gem, and is worthy of better surrounding than it finds in this work. As it stands, it is a pearl of great price set in pinchbeck. *Box*, quite overcome by somnolence, retires to his couch; when suddenly, *Cox*, having obtained a holiday from his master, the latter, returns to take his breakfast. After some byplay, he encounters the awakened *Box* and a characteristic duet ensues—"Who are you sir?"—resulting in loud calls from each for *Bouncer* to turn out the intruder. *Bouncer* appears with his unfailing '*Rataplan*'—in which they all join, and after a great show of enmity, the belligerents subside into an amicable friendship, partaking of their roll in common and even joining in a serenade. This number—the '*Buttercup*'—is charmingly pretty, and further exhibits the versatility of the composer.

During their amicable intercourse, *Cox* confides to his friend his attachment to Penelope Ann, the widow of William Wiggins, and *Box*, in a well written scene, describes how, three years ago, he became defunct and yet managed to remain in enjoyment of many good things belonging to this present world. Mr. Townley both sang and acted this to perfection, and Mr. Pearson most loyally, yet unobtrusively supported him, in a way never seen except among amateur actors who happen, also, to be personal friends.

Again they fall out, on finding that at various periods they have both sought the hand of the same widow, and after much contention, proceed to throw dice for the lady. Both sets of dice being loaded, this leads to a dead lock, and after more contention, they agree to the arbitrament of tossing. By some occult influence 'heads' perpetually appear on both coins and a climax is the result. "I nail your six-pence. Hullo! it's got no tail! I've a mind to throw you out on the leads." "Your shilling I find has got two heads." A tirade of abuse—"Swindler! cheat! Vagabond! thief!" flies from one to the other and back again, and the scene closes once more by the unanimous call for the poor landlord who is worried wellnigh out of his life by his troublesome lodgers. This duet, one of the most difficult numbers in the score, was given with precision and effect by both vocalists; and we must not fail, also, to notice, both in this and the former '*Rataplan*' trio, the capital and most easily intelligible pantomime, by the assistance of which the disputants make known to *Bouncer* their complaints and intentions.

In the finale, after a false alarm as to the death by drowning of the widow of the late Mr. Wiggins and a last quarrel between the lodgers as to the money she left behind for 'her intended husband,' and after both are thrown into consternation by the prospect of a visit from the lady in question, they obtain a joyous relief from her communication announcing her immediate union with Mr. Knox! The brothers (for so they turn out to be) swear eternal friendship, now never to separate, but to remain

together in *Bouncer's* apartments, greatly to the delight of that venerable yeoman. The whole concludes with a joyous 'Rataplan' interspersed with

Three cheers for *Knox*
Who lives at the Docks
And may he live happily—if he can.

Altogether perhaps the music is the best of Sullivan's attempts at Operetta. Original, sparkling and admirably suited to the spirit of the text.

Mr. Henley, as the old pensioner *Bouncer*—who so admirably contrives to get double-rent for his one room, played his part well; but he was not in good voice, and his memory completely failed him for some time in his opening 'hobby' song; most probably for the reason we have suggested above. Mr. Townley as the printer, repeated one of his old parts, greatly to the delight of his numerous admirers. The Lullaby, rendered in his own unexceptionable manner, brought down the house. Again, in the Buttercup serenade, the friends received an unanimous encore for which they bowed their acknowledgments, but declined to gratify the house. Mr. Pearson as the 'gentle hatter' is so well known to the audience that his good points need not be recapitulated:—suffice it to say, that the solo 'Now coals is coals' was enthusiastically and most deservedly applauded. He also shared to the full the honours accorded to the 'serenade-duet' with *Box*.

Altogether, however, the whole work showed signs of neglect in rehearsal and did not go nearly so well as on the last occasion when it was played—in January, 1877. Perhaps, in this case, supposed familiarity with the music had bred contempt for proper practice, an error which we trust will be avoided in future. We doubt not that the repetition performance, (which is to be for the benefit of Mr. Wagner,) will show a marked improvement in respect of precision and exactness of rendering. Mutton-chops of inordinate size, interpolated passages of arms with bolster and pillows, add greatly to the amount of boisterous fun, of which there is plenty in the original farce, but nothing of this sort can compensate for a mutilated rendering of a composer's ideas, when that farce is dignified by being turned into an operetta.

The little band, under the leadership of Mr. Wagner (alas! sadly diminished in number by removals, absences &c.) proved itself to be of the same sterling stuff as of yore. As before mentioned, the Overture to *Cox and Box* was magnificently rendered. A set of waltzes formed an agreeable diversion between the triumphs of the farce and a brilliant performance of Suppe's fine Overture to the "Mauer and Schlosser" introduced the latter piece.

This overture is neither more nor less than a symphony in miniature; the delicate handling of the melody among the strings in the movement enchanting the ear of the musician: no love-song could be more tender, no wooing more gentle. The joyous strains of the finale, in which the melody leaps along, now in full harmony now in strong unison, bring this glorious piece of instrumental writing to a worthy close.

Mr. Griffin acted as accompanist, and displayed all his well known patience and tact in "nursing" his vocalists, by no means an easy task, when they will not strictly adhere to the score. The accompaniments throughout were finely played, with that alternate martial energy, delicate grace, and furious rushing, which the exigencies of the various situations demand. What need we say more? Only that when the whole performance is shortly repeated, for the benefit of the *Chef d'Orchestre*, we look forward to a more finished rendering of this genial work.

Madison Morton's farce of the 'Two Bonnycastles' was written for Buckstone, and is full of the very broad humour and founded on one of those absolutely impossible plots in which that artist revels. Mr. Bonnycastle, having gone out to take a walk in James' Park on a summer evening,—during the temporary absence of his better half at Buxton, where she is drinking the waters for the benefit of her health,—runs against a man in the dark, and immediately afterwards misses his watch. He rushes after the thief, collars and struggles with him, and snatching back the watch, makes off home only to find—horror!—his own timekeeper quietly ticking away on the dressing table where he had left it; and that he has consequently and unconsciously committed highway robbery. After a sleepless night, a poster offering £20 for his apprehension clinches his determination to make a bolt of it, and he accordingly goes to Canterbury, where he introduces himself to his wife's old lawyer, as a young man in whom she is interested, seeking employment, and is straightway inducted in the vacant seat in the clerk's office. Mr. Smuggins, a 'stage' lawyer, takes a fancy to Jeremiah Joram as Bonnycastle call himself, and in two or three days offers him the hand of his niece Helen; which, after some demur, he has to promise to accept. But Helen cannot bear him, and in fact,—as we learn from the opening scene between herself and Patty, the housemaid, has fallen in love at first sight

with a young gentleman who has been lately following her in her walks. This young gentleman presently introduces himself through the window, and makes love in the dashing and impudent style of the 'farce' lover. A former admirer of Mrs. Bonnycastle before her marriage, he avails himself of the fact that old Smuggins has never seen Bonnycastle himself (as all believe) to introduce himself as that worthy; which will give him a footing in the house, and enable him to prosecute his suit with the niece. Then of course begin complications. Presently Mrs. Bonnycastle herself appears, in chase of her husband; having, on her sudden return from Buxton, found nothing but an incoherent note to explain his absence. Hearing from old Smuggins, before Bonnycastle has had time to tell her the truth, that he is engaged to the niece—she becomes jealous, and to punish him, falls in with Mr. John James Johnson's assumption of the part of her husband, to the despair of the true Bonnycastle, who has to witness their conjugal endearments. We need not follow the characters further in their absurdities, nor describe the inevitable discovery and general reconciliation, but may end our notice with a few words on the actors. Mr. Bayne, who had condescended to personate the lover, played Mr. Johnson's part with the perfect self-command and aplomb which always distinguish him and, as usual, had not taken the trouble to learn the words of his part; a carelessness which, in the case of probably any other amateur here, less ready and fluent of 'gag' and improvisation, would have ruined the piece by checking its go. Mr. Hay's make-up, as the old lawyer, disappointed us, and he might, altogether, have made more of the part: why should he not be an oily, plausible rascal who is anxious to marry his niece to the first comer for some occult reason, to hide some defalcation; instead of the drivelling, senile old fool, no more like a lawyer than a general postman, presented by Mr. Hay? The ladies' parts were as well filled as such thankless offices can be discharged by gentleman amateurs. Messrs. Brown and Vivanti's capacities have been often proved, and they quite justified their old reputation on Wednesday night; Mr. Brown, particularly, rendering very well Mrs. Bonnycastle's quiet and malicious little revenge for her husband's supposed flirtation. Mr. Duer, we believe, made his first appearance here: he must have played elsewhere, for he showed no stage fright, made the points of his small part neatly and well, was capitally made up, and looked a rather impudent hussy of a parlour maid to perfection. He did not seem to know quite what to do with his hands, when they had nothing in them, but this is a common and easily corrected fault. We shall be glad to see Mr. Duer in a better part, for he has evidently many of the qualifications for a good light-comedy actor.

Mr. Mitchell (may we take the liberty of styling him 'the immortal Pickles') played the principal part, and one required to be told that he was an amateur, lest one should ask from what London theatre he came. He has the *vis comica* very strongly developed, an excellent stage voice, great facial expression and a most admirable broad humour. The writer has never before had the pleasure of witnessing this actor's performance in farce, and Mr. Mitchell's personation of Bonnycastle, therefore, probably strikes his mind with more effect than those of his Yokohama admirers who are more familiar with him. Fright, horror, jealousy and rage were all depicted with the hand of a thorough artist, and all, of course, with the touches of exaggeration demanded by the style of piece. We wish to pay Mr. Mitchell a high compliment, when we say that he is the best actor in his line that we have seen in the East since Mr. Seare's retirement.

The announcement that during the period when the Kioto Exhibition is to be open, foreigners may go thither without the troublesome formality of applying for passports is gratifying. May the Japanese government soon realize the fact that, as a general rule, foreigners may be trusted to go,—and that their going will be an advantage,—all over Japan without passports. To those of our readers who do not know Kioto, meanwhile, we may say that—during April—it probably comes nearer to a poet's dream of the 'juventus mundi' than anything now accessible to work-a-day mortals. No one in Kioto ever does any work except perhaps the cooks, confectioners and bath-coolies,—and they like it. All the shops exhibit pretty goods and all the people go about all day in holiday dress. Every one is cheerful and happy, and the whole city is a bright picture of cherry blossoms, pretty girls, brilliant dresses, gay boats, processions, lanterns, fireflies and soft moonlight or sunlight—one soon gets to confuse them by turning night into day—in which one would like to live for ever if its sweetness did not cloy. The thrush's flute-like notes, which we have heard last week, are reminding us that spring is coming fast—and if our subscribers will give us a week's holiday about a month hence, we will employ it to their advantage and our own in a visit to and description of the Kioto Exhibition.

Either the climate, by the way, or the interest felt in the people, or some other reason, apparently makes the Consular service here

and in China very popular amongst young Englishmen. We note that the *London and China Express* says that over three hundred entries have already been made for the competitive examination for the four or five student-interpreterships made vacant by the promotions in the Chinese Consular service necessitated by the opening of the new ports.

Our readers will remark that, this week, we give them a translation of a paper read before the German Asiatic Society, which we have taken from their lately published transaction. We shall shortly be able to give others of later date. We have to offer an apology to Dr. Lange and his translator for the omission, towards the end of a number of accented letters, but as we have before mentioned, our resources, in this particular, are limited.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 1. Can any experienced woodman, or analytical chemist, favour the community with a disquisition upon charcoal? Is there any method of getting rid of the free carbonic acid gas which rises from it—before burning, or of any portion of the same? Do different woods give off different volumes of vapour, and if so, which is the safest to use in a bath room? (*Unanswered.*)

P.S.—Will *nobody* answer this, or must our contributors' valuable lives continue to remain in peril?

P.P.S.—If we can't get an answer to this by next week, we shall either reply to the query ourselves, or have to take to cold bathing.

J. T.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such? I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan. (*In process of answer.*)

B. H.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (*Unanswered.*)

Z.

Qy. 7. Who were the forty-seven Ronins and what about them? most of your readers may know but I do not; information supplied to me, may perhaps prove of interest to others.

B.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XI. THE ENVOY'S MESSAGE.

SIR Yukinaga, the Envoy, was received at the palace with all the ceremony befitting the Regent's representative. The Minister himself met him at the vestibule, and conducted him thence along the long sombre corridor that led to the Hall of Audience, the loftiest and most spacious room in the whole palace, constructed entirely of white pine-wood, and altogether without embellishment, save that those points where the surbase crossed the pillars carried embossments of gold chrysanthemums.

This inornate monotony, simple yet not devoid of grandeur, was no doubt a fitting emblem of the dispassionate prudence and calm judgment that theoretically preside at official audiences and councils of state; but one living in those days of hot debate and feverish conspiracy, might rather have discovered a mocking contrast between so chaste a setting and the many-hued pictures of emotion it from time to time enclosed. So too might he have deemed that the spirit of an insidious diplomacy brooded in the delusive atmosphere by which the place was apparently pervaded, for despite the in-

finite pains with which the sunbeams crept inwards across environments of wide galleries, paper slides and close-meshed lattices, each massive pillar and broad white panel seemed to reflect the softest essence of the rays received, becoming thus a source rather than a consumer of light, so that the whole chamber was bathed in a subdued lustre, like that found on a snow-clad moor before moon-rise. And yet, emerging suddenly from the hall, a man encountered in the full day-light beyond, such a garish and dazzling brilliancy, that he was fain to think the faint luminosity within had been altogether an illusion; a visionary ether, in which he had seemed to see everything while discerning nothing.

The Envoy occupied the seat of honour before the alcove, and the Minister sat facing him, some three or four paces distant; thus having his back turned to the ranks of noblemen and officers that lined both sides of the hall. The monitors had arrived in time to take part in the ceremony, but not having first obtained the desired conference, they awaited the issue of this interview with absorbing anxiety; for despite his wild excesses and almost maniacal cruelty, Hidetsugu possessed some attribute that endeared him to the worthiest of his officers. Moreover the monitors had an interest more intimate than mere sympathy in the fortunes of the Minister, since they themselves would be exposed by his disgrace to an accusation of either connivance or incompetency, the first if, unable to restrain his intemperances, they had willingly refrained from reporting them; the second if, appointed to watch, they had failed to discover his miscarriage. Seeing then their own and their master's fate together in the balance, they earnestly sought some indication of his purpose in Hidetsugu's face, as he passed between the ranks of courtiers; but it was impossible to determine whether the mask of apathy that covered his features was the result of hopeless indifference, or the evidence of some resolve in nothing subordinate to present circumstances.

After formal instalment in his place, Sir Yukinaga, having saluted first the Minister, and subsequently the assembled courtiers with most minute courtesy, proceeded to deliver his message in these terms:—

"Your Excellency will, I hope, allow me to premise, that as His Highness the Regent's envoy, my discretion does not even extend to the forms of my speech. This I say less to your Excellency, whose just judgment will at once distinguish between the author and the agent, than to myself, who am disquieted lest the conduct of my duties should be prejudiced by the reluctance their nature inspires."

Here the Envoy paused a moment, and then resumed, speaking with the tone of one that follows a set routine of words:—

"His Highness, with the ultimate intention of placing the reins of state in your Excellency's hands, raised you to the high post of Prime Minister, and during his absence in the island of the nine provinces, delegated to you his own executive functions. He therefore hoped that your Excellency's gratitude would direct your Government into benevolent channels, securing to the people that quiet and well-being which constitute the ends of His Highness' policy. That this hope was unreasonable, or that it has not been realized, the Regent is most unwilling to admit, for though severe and intemperate attributes have been ascribed to your Excellency's rule by rumours, hard to be credited or combated, His Highness believes that your Excellency has long appreciated the value of those golden truths inculcated by the sages, namely, that to be a master of men one must first be master of oneself, and that the life of a great ruler should be a mirror in which his subjects find no images reflected save those of virtue and sedulity. His Highness has therefore commissioned me to solicit from your Excellency some evidence that will refute these rumours, and restore the confidence with which the country once anticipated your elevation to the most responsible post in the empire."

With whatever attention the courtiers followed the progress of Sir Yukinaga's speech, easily detecting the sharp outlines its smooth surface covered, their chief interest was concentrated on the Minister's reply, for those nobles and officers whose duties made them most familiar with Hidetsugu's disposition, had found him so imperious in his absolutism, that they had never attempted to forecast his probable conduct in the presence of restraint; and had it been possible for the Minister to study the glances that sought him in that moment, when discretion was overbalanced by excitement, he might have discovered many contradictions of Seta Kamon's insidious assurances. But he saw nothing, and had he seen,

would probably have taken no heed. Without raising his eyes, and scarcely imparting a shadow of earnestness to his words, he said:—

"His Highness' message takes me completely by surprise. Conscious from the first how far the favours I had received were in excess of my deserts, I applied myself to the performance of my duties during the Regent's absence, with a zeal that leaves no memory of negligence. It may be that my incapacity involved errors which have furnished themes to my traducers. If this be so, I have no excuse to offer, since crime cannot exist without intention. But if it be otherwise: if slander has discovered an opportunity, not in my miscarriages, but in the misfortune that renders me an obstacle to another's succession, then indeed, though seeing plainly that my office, my honour and therefore also my life are involved in these issues, I make no attempt to defend myself, lest by impugning the Regent's justice, I should exchange my consciousness of innocence for the guilt of disrespect."

When the Minister ceased speaking, the stillness of rapt attention that had gathered and weighed every term and tone of his address, was succeeded by an equal silence of astonishment. Not a few had supposed that at the first approach of danger, this reckless drifter on the streams of sensuality and excess would seek to compromise his difficulties by the surrender of his higher functions, while others had looked for a display of helpless resentment ending in sullen submission; but not one found that the reality bore any resemblance to his expectations. The main part however, after a moment's reflection, concluded that the policy Hidetsugu followed could not have emanated from himself, but must have been suggested, and therefore also supported, by a powerful section of his nobles, and thus it resulted that no one ventured to advise, being unable to foresee where his opinion might find accord or opposition. The Envoy, on his side, felt that while purporting to be a reply to his message, the words he had just heard were addressed to himself least of all those present. They were in fact an explanation, that showed the futility of defence by implicitly referring Taiko's action to either credulity or prejudice, and at the same time an appeal, that set the speaker's loyal resignation and magnanimity in strong contrast with his judge's lack of equity.

Bansaku alone detected the real motive that had dictated his master's language; he alone recognized the timid treason that sought to provoke its own justification, and developed a craftiness sufficient to supply the place of ability.

"Sir Yukinaga," he said, before the Envoy had time to make any reply to the Minister, "it seems to me that a little consideration ought to have proved the falsehood of these rumours without any reference to my master. His Excellency has monitors chosen by the Regent and therefore competent; he has also an adviser in myself, who if little competent, am at least earnest. If they have been silent; if I have been silent, should not this be accepted as evidence of our master's blamelessness rather than our own connivance? We have no answer ready, since innocence is seldom provided with a defence, but you who know the Regent's disposition, and now understand our position, will surely be glad to supplement your office of envoy by that of mediator between His Highness and his adopted son. We therefore commit our case entirely to your hands."

The Envoy was evidently much perplexed by Bansaku's words. It seemed almost a mockery, this sudden substitution of a mediator's for an inquisitor's office, and yet there was no room to question the simple faith that suggested the proposition, which, for the rest, seemed more and more reasonable the more it was considered. Nevertheless, since no agent, however impassive, is altogether impartial, Sir Yukinaga, obliged to elect neutrality or inclination, discovered that the reconciliation of the Regent and the Minister was not the end his own desires indicated. He therefore addressed his answer to Hidetsugu, for men who had anything to conceal instinctively avoided Bansaku's scrutiny.

"Your Excellency's words," he said, "are perfectly just. My mission however is neither to convey a censure from His Highness, nor yet to analyze the motive of these reports. I am simply charged to obtain a denial or an admission of their truth, and I trust your Excellency will not, by an inexplicit answer, expose me to the imputation of having misconceived and mismanaged my commission. Whatever be the nature of your Excellency's vindication, I will gladly charge myself with its support, for the misfortune that has elected me to such an office as this, would be more than compensated if my efforts could in any way induce a happy issue."

It was now Hidetsugu's turn to be embarrassed. He had made no mental provision for such a contingency as this, and his ideas suggested no alternative. But he had not overlooked the Envoy's avoidance of direct converse with Bansaku, and at his sign the comptroller again interposed:—

"If His Excellency has not given you an explicit answer, Sir Yukinaga, it is entirely because your question is itself vague. You have only to particularize these reports or accusations, and you will at once receive a satisfactory reply to each count. An indefinite charge of misconduct can only elicit a general denial, and yet, as you yourself know, the most blameless are always least willing to assert their own blamelessness."

"In order to be explicit, Bansaku," replied the Envoy, "it would be necessary to have recourse to conjecture, for His Highness specified nothing. And in this he evidenced, I believe, a desire to acquit, which it is certainly not my wish to defeat. With His Excellency's permission I will therefore now retire, and have the honour to wait at the palace again tomorrow, when I hope to receive an answer that will completely convince the Regent."

If this proposition pleased the Minister, who never opposed procrastination, it was doubly acceptable to his faithful servants, who saw in the respite thus afforded an opportunity to urge the adoption of loyal counsels. Sir Yukinaga accordingly took his leave, and after his departure, Hidetsugu dismissed the court, engaging the monitors' however, to wait on him again, so soon as they should have received the Regent's message to themselves from Kumagaya, intimation of whose arrival at Kimura's house had just reached the palace.

Towards evening, then, the monitors were at last admitted to their desired audience with the Minister. Less disposed to regret the delay that had occurred than to blame themselves for tamely suffering it, they confronted Hidetsugu with an air of resolution to which his conscience probably gave a false interpretation, for almost before any words were exchanged, he lapsed again into that condition of listless vacillation that Seta Kamon's subtlety had for the nonce quickened into independent purpose. Bansaku also was present. He carried in his hand a long slender box, resembling a letter case in form and size, but of the richest lacquer, and bound with a thick plait of violet silk.

Sir Kimura addressed the Minister in his own and his colleague's names:—

"The Regent's message to us," he said, "has none of the obscurity that Your Excellency noticed in the Envoy's address this morning. We have been charged in no measured terms with neglect of duty, and summoned to defend ourselves before His Highness against the accusation, first, of incompetence, and second, of negligence in that we have allowed rumour to precede our report of Your Excellency's excesses. Whether the inefficacy of our admonitions has been due to their own weakness or to their object's indifference, we leave Your Excellency to judge. At this crisis we have no intention of defending ourselves, since we could only do so at Your Excellency's expense. When we accepted the office of monitors, we determined that to be successful we must be devoted as well as zealous, and we offer to-day the proof of our devotion, for we place our lives at Your Excellency's disposal. It cannot be that the Regent will refuse to be satisfied, if we refer Your Excellency's irregularities entirely to our own incapacity, and offer to atone for them by our deaths.* "But," continued Sir Kimura, his voice trembling with earnestness, "if this is to be the end of our services, let it also be the beginning of a career that will restore to Your Excellency the confidence of the Regent and the people. It is a little thing indeed to die, but to carry to the grave the consciousness that death and life will have been alike unfruitful, is sad to loyal hearts."

"Sir Kimura," said the Minister quietly, "I will never accept immunity at the cost of your lives. The plots that threaten me are worthy of no such noble sacrifice. Nor would it suffice to defeat them. I am not arraigned by justice, but partiality. The question is between Hideyori and myself, and the judge is my rival's father. Whatever strength we can oppose to this combination is not, I fear, to be sought in submission."

Here Sir Tajima interposed:—

"Your Excellency may possibly think that because we have confessed our design, we look to be turned from it, but

* It was by no means uncommon for a vassal (especially a "Karo") to expiate his master's crimes by his own suicide.
F. B.

it is not so. Our resolution is taken, and we have only made it known with the hope of adding weight to this our last appeal. For standing on the verge of the grave, we conjure Your Excellency to remove the stains from your life, before it becomes necessary to wash them out with your vassals' blood. A ruler's life is the nation's guide no less than his laws, and on the pedestal of power there is no privacy, for neither curtain, gate nor guards can hide a prince's closet from the people's eye. It is not enough to have done a portion of one's work well, for a little wrong will obscure much right:—

"Good-fame was e'er a stay-at-home,

"But ill-report delights to roam."

If Your Excellency determines to forget these things, there can be but one end, and that no less inglorious than our's, who go down to the tomb deprived of the only medicine that makes death welcome, the memory of a useful life."

When Sir Tajima ceased, he and Sir Kimura, with heads bowed to the ground, anxiously awaited the result of their appeal, but Hidetsugu did not speak, for his eyes clouded and his voice failed in the presence of these men, who even while they censured gave their lives to shield.

Bansaku meanwhile had listened to this dialogue with evident astonishment, and something akin to indignation. The monitors' action departed altogether from the course preconceived with himself, and though he felt that this variance was probably due to cogent reasons, its inference of his master's guilt made it altogether repugnant to him. Turning, he addressed Sir Kimura in a tone of warm reproach:—

"Sir Kimura, your words have surprised me greatly. If my master's safety demanded the sacrifice of any life, it would be my privilege to offer mine first. But this is not an occasion for any such remedy. You speak to the Minister of reform, as though the irregularities you censure were within his control, while in reality they are but the work of evil influences invoked by his enemies. What end then would your death serve? Surely not the good of either the Regent or the Minister, whom, living, you help to protect, but dead, you abandon. No, Your Excellency," he continued, "the Regent is as unhappy in his suspicions as you are to be suspected. Our action must aim at more than a temporary reconciliation, and I entreat you to be guided by my counsels in the matter. Should they fail, my life will still be sufficient expiation."

The monitors' proposal had been distasteful not only to Hidetsugu's generosity, but also to the feeling he had secretly cherished since his interview with Seta Kamon. He therefore gladly consented to adopt whatever plan Bansaku suggested.

The comptroller then, having secured his master's approval, drew from the box he carried, a large sheet of paper, one half of which was blank, and the other covered with a rough delineation of a multitude of crows, clustering here and there about outlines that represented the shapes into which offerings of viands are formed for presentation at the altars of the gods. A few of these crows were distinguished by red circles, described beside their beaks or breasts, and in three places the vermilion contours of large temple-stamps could be traced among the flocks of sable birds.

This was the phylactery of the god Kuma no Gongen, the mystic emblem of the most solemn oath to which a Japanese could subscribe.*

Above this device Hidetsugu, at Bansaku's instance, indited a letter to the Regent, declaring that the rumours which had occasioned the Envoy's mission were entirely false; that he, Hidetsugu, had always performed his public duties with conscientious zeal, taking the welfare of the people as

* Izanagi, Izanami and Susa no O, the rulers of Japan in the times of its theocracy, are all worshipped under the title of Gongen. Jimmu Ten-o, the first emperor, invoked the protection of this deity, whose sprites, assuming the forms of crows, attended and directed him ever afterwards both on the march and in the battle. Hence to these birds was attributed some power of distinguishing truth and falsehood, and an amulet, such as that described in the text, was supposed to be an infallible instrument for the detection of guilt. One of the crows distinguished by the red circle was cut into morsels, which the suspected person was obliged to swallow in a draught of water, and there can be no doubt that conscience aided by superstition sometimes lent a marvellous efficacy to this potion. Pieces of paper are not at any time easy to swallow, and if their passage be further obstructed by a conviction that the guilty stomach must instantly reject them in a stream of blood, it may well be conceived that confession was often preferred to such an ordeal.

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his object and the Regent's example as his guide, and that in his private life he was not conscious of having exceeded the licence permissible to any nobleman. The letter concluded with these words:—

"And if any particular of these statements, however trifling, be wittingly insincere, may the direst punishments of the God of the Sun and the guardian Deity of the Empire within the four seas, the chastisements of the omniscient God and the God of Battles, the curses of the Tutelary Deities of the sixty four provinces, the Household Gods and the God of Learning, the plagues of the District Gods, with those of their attendant Genii, and the maledictions of the Spirits of the Dead in all ages, fall upon me, and confound me utterly."

It is not difficult to conceive the process of mental sophistry by which Hidetsugu persuaded himself to write this letter. He cannot indeed have entirely evaded the consciousness of perjury, but in all probability the darkness of his sin being for the moment dispelled by the strong light of Bansaku's probity, he was content to base his justification on the concurrence of his high-minded servant. It is easy, very easy, to be led astray even by counsels of evil authorship, but who is he that will refuse to follow, where the guide is integrity and the goal self-interest? And Bansaku too, the faithful vassal, quietly confident in the truth of his conviction; was his devotion to be shaken by a confession of compunction? Recrimination is the first weapon of a feeble conscience, and how pleasant it must have been for the weak, petulant Minister to be taught that his sins were not his own, and that to acknowledge them would be to encourage injustice. No doubt, also, there was much incentive in the idea that the Regent had been moved to this step, not by deliberate conviction, but by slanders to which his own inclination had given the weight of evidence, and whose malevolence warranted their opposition by any weapon whatsoever.

The monitors on their side seem to have conceived that a prospective interpretation might obviate the fraudulence of this letter, and they consented to present it to the Regent, provided the Minister solemnly engaged to reform his habits of life, and be guided in future by their own and the comptroller's counsels. To this condition Hidetsugu readily assented, and the monitors set out the same evening for Fushimi.

Sir Kimura suspected, though he could not altogether explain, Ishida Mitsunari's complicity in the schemes that threatened Hidetsugu. He knew that his own office of monitor had been designed not so much to utilize as to remove him from the court, where his influence had threatened to exceed that of the Baron of Sawayama himself, and this fact, added to certain information he had been able to obtain, gave him a tolerable perception of the truth. It was therefore with no small satisfaction that he received the announcement of Ishida's absence from Fushimi, and confident of easy access to the Regent, he and his colleague boldly demanded audience of the Privy Council, before which it was necessary to declare their mission, as a preliminary measure.

But, to their great astonishment, the four Councillors who were present, unanimously refused to sanction their introduction to the Regent, declaring that the question Sir Yukinaga had been sent to investigate, could not possibly be considered before his return.

This opposition was at first sustained with sufficient show of reason, but its true character was soon revealed by the obstinate warmth that combatted every argument and entreaty of the monitors, until at last Sir Tajima, seeing all his projects imperilled by this unlooked for obstacle, was so imprudent as to charge the Council with prejudice; whereupon they retorted by accusing him of an attempt to deceive Taiko by presenting a letter whose contents he knew to be false, and asked him ironically whether he had seriously hoped for their support in such an undertaking. The dispute seemed farthest from adjustment, when fortunately Mayeda Toshiye, Duke of Kaga, arrived at the castle, and resolved the difficulty by himself introducing the monitors to Taiko's presence.

The Regent received Hidetsugu's letter, read it and laid it aside without making any comment. He remained a few moments buried in thought, and the monitors drew the worst auguries from the evident gravity of his aspect. At last he said:—

"I should be content to acquit Hidetsugu on the evidence of this letter, supported by your testimony, believing as I do that he has endeavoured to discharge his duty conscientiously."

ly, but rumour must have some origin, however insignificant. Ease quickly effaces the memory of danger, and it is very possible that Hidetsugu, finding himself in an irresponsible position, may have forgotten to be sufficiently circumspect. If I have not been more explicit in my message, it is not because I lack details, but because I have preferred to leave your sincerity uncontrolled. To what then am I to attribute the reports that have reached me of debauchery and incontinence that threaten to make Hidetsugu's appointment a disgrace to myself and a misfortune to the people?"

Sir Kimura, startled by the Regent's angry accents, replied without a moment's hesitation, for he saw that nothing but some precise admission could now serve Hidetsugu's cause:—

"Your Highness, the origin of these rumours is well known to us, though without your express command we should not have deemed it worthy of mention. His Excellency, some time ago, added to the number of his concubines a young lady called Chika, the daughter of one Tarao Shirozayemon, a gentleman of Iga. This alliance gave rise to some scandal, because of Tarao's humble position, and we have since heard it said that the Minister has been led into various excesses by the young lady's great beauty and remarkable accomplishments, but whether this be true or not, we can affirm that his Excellency's duties have not in consequence suffered any neglect whatever, and under these circumstances we have not felt justified in remonstrating, fearing that a frivolous interference would only tend to diminish our influence. No nobleman imperils his reputation so long as he restricts the number of his concubines to eight, and surely the Prime Minister ought not to be an exception to this rule. But if your Highness finds in this any grounds for censure, we humbly submit that we alone deserve to be punished, since our silence may well have been construed into sanction."

"Sir Kimura," interposed the Duke of Kaga, who was sitting besides the Regent, "the mere fact of Tarao's daughter being admitted to the Minister's household would not constitute a fault, but Chika, I understand, was formerly the concubine of Yoshisato, who has been degraded and disgraced. She is not therefore a fit person to be the Minister's companion."

"That would be true, my Lord," replied Sir Kimura, "if His Excellency had received her direct from Yoshisato, but such was not the case. The lady had returned to her father's house before her admission to the palace, and to all intents her relations with Yoshisato might as well never have existed."

"Nevertheless," persisted the Duke, "as yourself admit, she has been the cause of these rumours, and my own doubts prove that men less well-informed than you, consider the propriety of her presence in the palace more than questionable. I most certainly think that her dismissal is a necessary step, both to re-establish the Minister's reputation, and to prove the sincerity of his explanation."

The monitors might still have endeavoured to avoid a condition which they knew would be most distasteful to Hidetsugu, but seeing that the Duke's complaisance depended on this concession, and Taiko's indulgence on the Duke's intercession, they promised to obtain Chika's dismissal, and in return entreated the Duke to use his good offices with the Regent on the Minister's behalf.

Taiko easily allowed himself to be persuaded. He however warned the monitors that under the circumstances it would be necessary for them to redouble their surveillance, and Hidetsugu his circumspection, since a reputation once tarnished is of all things most difficult to repair, and he dismissed them with a caution that the truth of Hidetsugu's letter must be established by his future conduct.

But when Hidetsugu heard the condition on which pardon had been accorded, his gratitude bore no comparison to his indignation. Was it consistent with any principle of justice, he asked, that, holding the second post in the empire, the petty details of his life should be subjected to such a vexatious restraint, and what could be more ridiculous than these new-born scruples of the Regent's, who himself had not hesitated to offer a place in his household to a fishmonger's daughter.†

* Mayeda, Duke of Kaga, held the office of Dainagon, a species of High Censorship, with most extensive functions and powers.

† Kiyō, daughter of Sen no Rikiu.

F. B.

But the monitors were firm. They had pledged themselves to carry this point, and if Hidetsugu definitely refused to consent, nothing would remain for them, they said, but to tender their resignation, and confess that the Minister's excesses were beyond the reach of their control. At this threat Hidetsugu had recourse to duplicity. He not only promised to dismiss Chika, but showed otherwise so much docility, that the monitors were completely deceived, and persuaded themselves to anticipate a total reformation in the court morals.

Meantime those who had abetted Ishida Mitsunari's schemes, were astonished to see that he evinced no disappointment whatever at their apparently abortive result. Why indeed should he, seeing that one object of his life was apparently attained, and that the happiness he had so long coveted was at last within his reach? Determined that none should forestall him this time, he despatched two of his vassals to Iga with rich presents for Tarao, instructing them to employ any and every means to obtain possession of Chika.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE RIGHT OF PROPERTY IN MONEY.

(From the correspondence of the 'Nichì Nichi Shimbun'.)

THE Editor of the Hochi Shimbun has published in the Editorial column of his paper No. 1,300, an article by Mr. Giurei-Joshi upon the question of "the right of Property in Money," in reference to the *Daijō-kurari*'s notification No. 2, forbidding any attempt to melt or deface the coins in current use &c. &c. A summary of his argument is "that, the people, when the value of bullion exceeds that of the coin, should they find it profitable to themselves to have the coin made into bullion by melting, may either melt or deface them, the consequence of which would be not harm, but only advantage to the public," and again:—"That Govt. should retain the exclusive right of coinage, and should not allow the people to interfere therewith is advantageous to the public, and we have nothing but praise to give to the arrangement. But as soon as the coins have been brought into use and have become the private property of the people, they are simply merchandize, and there should be no difference between them and other properties. To melt or deface is at the will of the holder. But the action of the Notification seems apparently to be an invasion of individual right."

What meaning does the writer attach to the words "advantageous to the public?" It would happen that unless manufactured by the Government, the proportion of the alloy and the weight of the coins could not be made uniform. Should this be really so, I wonder greatly at the strangeness of the opinion: in fact, I not only wonder at it, but I cannot but say that he 'begs the question' in both the former and latter part of the argument. Pray, Sir, think over it again, and consider why we at first agreed amongst ourselves to entrust the Government with the right of coinage. By doing so, you will doubtless become aware of your error before reading this. I will hereby give what I firmly believe to be the real spirit of the Notification. I have heard that the cunning Chinese ingeniously take off a portion of our coins, but I think that it could not be guaranteed that not only the Chinese, but the people of home and abroad, who are well versed in cunning arts, may not rob some portion out of our coin in several ways. Should it happen that such practices prevail, it would result in injury to the Government directly, and to the people indirectly. For instance, if there be a manufacturer, who is praised on account of his product, on which his trade-mark is put, and a vulgar retail merchant should sell it, after having quietly robbed a portion of the product and thus disgrace its reputation, there is no reason that the manufacturer should not sustain injury from the fraud. Even in ordinary merchandize this is so, and how much more would it be with the coins which are the medium of trade. If from such various lowering of the weights of coins, by clipping, piercing &c., it should become necessary to employ scales in each case of transfer of coin in business transactions, what difficulty there would

be in trading! And how could the Government, who is the manufacturer of this great and important thing, manage without forbidding the cause of such great injury? But the opinion of the disputant in the *Hochi Shimbun* seems to be that, while not greatly objecting to the prohibition of defacing the coins, he simply objects to that of melting. I shall therefore prove that the Government has not made any mistake in that point of its plan. The value of billion of 4 fun 4 rin 3 67 mo (in accordance with the words of the disputant) which is the Mint weight or value of our one Gold *yen*, has never exceeded that of one Gold *yen*, nor will it easily become so in future; there is no reason therefore that their coins be defaced or melted. But should foolish rich people or robbers commence such a practice, the effect would be very injurious to the public. That variations in value should exist between money and other articles, may not be so very injurious to the practice of economy; but it is both natural and reasonable to suppose that, if paper money only be increased, and coins not so in equal proportion; the former falls and the latter rises in value in proportion. It is said that since the outbreak of the South Western rebellion, the paper money has increased about 27,000,000 *yen* (according to the *Hochi Shimbun*) from which the value of coins has become greater than that of paper money by about ten per cent, and if at this time, cunning and wicked people were to melt the coins and thus decrease this amount in circulation, our country will shortly have to step on the same ground as the Americans and French did, or even should we not fortunately come to that point, the Government which is our protector, need not hesitate in forbidding the practice, if it sees calamity approaching.

Does not the disputant know that the Government has prohibited land-owners to sell their land to foreigners, although they are allowed to either let or cultivate them? This is because there might be injury at some future time, and so, also it prohibited coin holders to melt and deface them, although they are allowed to either spend them for clothing or hoard them. This is also because there might be injury at some future time. How is it that the disputant, whilst not doubting the prohibition of selling ground to foreigners, questions that of melting or breaking coins? Equally the point which will be injurious in both of these, is forbidden and how can one be possibly wrong whilst the other is right? I have always heard from the learned, that in Holland, the Government not having had the exclusive right of coinage, has sustained a great loss, and although it has not the right even now, in all the other countries of Europe and America, which have the reputation of being civilized, the Government has an exclusive right of coinage.

Thus although agreeing for a time with the opinion of the disputant as to the liberty of people to melt or deface coin, and there being no injury therefrom, I cannot say that his opinion as to the action of the Notification being an invasion of individual right, is correct.

(The writer of the *Hochi Shimbun* replies to the above as follows.)

In the column of correspondence of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, Mr. Naruse has explained and objected to, the "Question of the right of property in money" which I had previously published. But he seems to have mistaken the *Daijokwan's* Notification No. 2, to be an order to prohibit the action of counterfeiting coins or diminishing their weight by clipping &c., and thus the former part of his explanation being a little obscure, I must ask him to read over the Notification once more. He says in the latter part, "that although it is permitted that money should be hoarded, the action of melting or defacing coin is injurious to the public," but I and my fellow disputants believe that both of these have the effect of bringing the coins out of circulation, and if the principle of this Notification be fully extended, the action of hoarding also must be forbidden and thus we wonder at it, and unless therefore the point that, any effort of bringing money out of circulation is injurious to the country, be fully and precisely explained, I do not think that I and my fellow disputants will come to a clear understanding.

So I hereby beg to thank Mr. Naruse for his kind attention, and at the same time request his further explanation.

THE MEXICAN DOLLAR AN EXCRESCENCE ON THE JAPANESE TRADE.

(From the 'Chingai Bukka Shimpô'.)

THERE is an excrescence of one particular kind, existing in, and greatly obstructing, the transactions of our trade with foreigners—the Mexican dollar. The cause of dollars having gained such strength in the market is that, at the time when the ports were opened for foreign trade, there existing no current money in our country which foreigners believed in, and consequently no means whereby to transact business; the silver money coined in Mexico and, at that time, circulating in China, was introduced at once, and soon gained such strength as to become indispensable as it remains at the present time.

The reason we call these dollars, "an excrescence of one particular kind" is because merchants must deal with them, according to the two current rates of exchange, the space of their circulation being so limited; and the frequent fluctuations in their current price, which greatly obstruct business transactions. Why are the Mexican dollars supposed to be worth believing in? What Government has the exclusive right of coining them? Not speaking of foreign merchants, with what belief in them do our merchants employ them in their business transactions? Actually, those now current in Yokohama not being the same as those first introduced, the Chinese merchants, &c. do not like them; indeed, some of them utterly refuse to take them. These dollars, being under the control of the Spanish Government, * it cannot be known how many more will be coined, and also they are unequal, for they undergo frequent changes. But our merchants knowing these things, are acting simply according to custom, and although they sometimes sustain injury themselves therefrom, they do not attempt to sweep away the cause, but remain in the same state. This is a very sad matter. These dollars cannot be used in paying the land tax in the interior, nor in purchasing anything outside of the foreign settlements, and, farther, they are not circulated all over foreign countries: indeed, there is nothing to compare with their limited circulation. It is therefore reasonable that their fluctuation originates from that of the English pound and of silver coin in several places, but the fluctuations of this origin are infrequent, and are mostly caused from speculators buying or selling them all at once according to the state of trade.

We will give the comparison of the current price English pound sterling from the beginning of the 10th year of Meiji up to this date:—

† Momme s. d.		Momme s. d.	
Jan. '77	60.37 ... 4. 2.5	Aug. '77	63.15 ... 3. 10.875
Feb. "	62.50 ... 4. 1.75	Sept. "	63.10 ... 3. 10.75
Mar. "	61.41 ... 4. 1.75	Oct. "	62.20 ... 3. 11
April "	62.11 ... 4. 0.	Nov. "	62.37 ... 3. 10.25
May "	60.86 ... 4. 0.	Dec. "	61.89 ... 3. 11.
June "	61.44 ... 3. 11.875	Jan. '78	62.74 ... 3. 10.75
July "	61.60 ... 4. 0	Feb. "	64.03 ... 3. 10.25

(the highest price reached).

From this our readers will observe that notwithstanding the fluctuation of the value of the English pound, dollars have mostly fluctuated of themselves. That we should have introduced and employed dollars as a medium of trade at a time when the value of our current money was uncertain and impossible to be believed in, (being an unavoidable matter) we cannot now complain. But, since the Government has, seeing this, established an extensive Mint, second to none in Asiatic countries, and decided the value and weight of the gold and silver coins; and, further, for the purposes of trade, have coined a special kind of silver money and put it in circulation, of which circumstances both natives and foreigners are doubtless aware, (and as to the good quality of the latter money, it is fully believed in) now what do native and foreign merchants mean by employing the Mexican dollar at present, while such good and trustworthy Trade dollars are being coined in this country? If the Mexican dollars were discharged from the market and our Trade dollars employed instead, it would follow that, not only the trouble of calculating

* An error. The Spanish Government has nothing to do with the Mexican Mints. But 'mexico monies,' 'Mexican' for 'Spanish'—the argument is sound. Ed. J. T.

† 'Momme' is the sixtieth part of one *yen*. S. M., Translator.

up the two current prices would be avoided, but the coinage being done in our country, foreigners would, according to the state of the current prices of silver, come to ask that their bullion should be coined here, and the bullion in both the interior of the country and in China would come to be coined; and the Government, always keeping a stock of bullion, could at once have them coined in case of rise of price, and have them circulated among the public. Thus those in the interior would come in of themselves without being sought for, and therefore it is apparent that such extreme rises as happen would not occur.

AS we are afraid that our readers may not have understood our phrase:—"merchants must deal with them according to the two current prices of exchange," we hereby repeat the explanation. What we call "the two current prices" is the difference in price between the current money of our country and the Mexican dollar (Mexican dollar rate) and that between the dollar and the English pound (Exchange rate) and in buying things from foreign countries these two prices must be first calculated before dealing with the business.

We have heard that current money is the gobetween of trade. But of coin, of itself and serving as gobetween of other money, the only example is the Mexican dollar circulating in our open ports and we have nothing of the kind elsewhere.

Although the dollars are an excrescence of one particular kind, if they simply needed the trouble of calculating the two rates, and did not otherwise obstruct trade, we should not say much; but there being a great obstruction from them, we say that we must expel them from the markets. For instance in Yokohama, if when the price of a dollar is 60 momme and that of a picul of silk 600 dollars, we purchase the silk worth about 35 momme per catty in Joshiu, and adding the transit and other expenses thereto, we could bring it to Yokohama at the cost of 495 dollars, we could still gain a reasonable profit; but at this time, should there be a difference of 1 momme in a dollar, it would create a difference of more than 6 yen per picul. This is also the case when we purchase such things as Chinese cords, and muslin from foreign countries, the costs of which fluctuate but very little, and how much more would it be, if the price were fixed with the rate of dollars at the time of making the contract and the things to be delivered 20 or 30 days after. According to the fluctuations in value, we sometimes sustain great loss. If one or two banks mutually agreeing, wish to raise the cost of dollars, they could do so to any height—and the reason why trade in Yokohama is dangerous, is nothing but this. Some people may say that, although we abandon the Mexican dollar, the trouble of calculating two rates could still not be avoided, because the paper which is our current money cannot be circulated in foreign countries; and certainly a difference would arise between the Trade dollars and the paper money. This may be so. But still if the Trade dollars were employed, the state would not be so serious as now.

In carefully considering the fluctuations of dollars, we find, that between the months from June and July to September and October, when there are most exports, the price of dollars falls and that of exchange rises, but if, on the contrary, there are but little exports, the price of dollars rises and that of exchange falls. Thus the time when foreigners want the dollars, is when their price is low, and when we want them, is when their price is high. This is simply caused from the fact that as dollars can not be circulated outside of the markets at the open ports, and as our merchants must, anyway, change them to current money, the dollars are all stocked in these places and never go out of them. They sometimes suffer from their abundance, but foreigners too cannot always profit from this; because when they wish to buy our goods when the exports are great, they must give us the dollars so scarce among them and we, at the time when the current price is low, can sell goods at high prices. Therefore, after all, the inconvenience falls upon both them and ourselves and the only parties who get profit in the interval, are those bankers who are fond of keeping many different kinds of money.

For what defect do the native and foreign merchants treat with indifference our Trade dollar? Do they entertain any doubt as to their quality and weight? As our

Government sends these coins to the Mint of England and other countries every year to be tested and analyzed, the reports upon which are occasionally published in native and foreign newspapers, their good quality must be known to the people and thus nothing can be said against their good quality. Is it on account of their circulation being limited? In China our trade dollars and other subsidiary coins are becoming prevalent. Indeed the subsidiary coins have actually gained a premium of a certain amount and as far as Macao, Singapore, Penang and Amoy, these coins are almost becoming the current money. Thus nothing can be said against their circulation. We, although we have carefully considered this, cannot come to a clear understanding upon it.

Some may say that being limited in number, they are insufficient for the purposes of trade. We believe that, as there is the Mint to make the coins at any time, this cannot be the cause which affects their circulation. We therefore earnestly wish that Government would permit the payment of taxes being made in the trade dollars; and, keeping a sufficient number of coins in the Mint, would give them to natives and foreigners, in exchange for the bullion which they might bring, and thus afford a convenient medium of exchange. At the same time, we should strive to sweep away the Mexican dollar; and we also hope that foreigners, giving up their obstinacy, will join us in our effort to secure future convenience.

THE CAUSE OF THE RISE IN VALUE OF MEXICAN DOLLARS.

(This is the article from the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō* to which we referred last week in our leading article.—Ed. J. T.)

THE recent rise in value of dollars in Yokohama is excessive, indeed they rose to the value of 68 momme (about 13.3 per cent) yesterday (March 5th) and there must doubtless be not a few of both native and foreign merchants who have sustained loss from this. We have already explained in our paper (see above: Ed. J. T.) that Mexican dollars are an excrescence and a great obstruction to trade. Our readers will have now understood that our opinion was not a mistake. That the increase of paper money is the cause of this rise, seems to be the general opinion of learned men, merchants and economists. Indeed the Editor of the *Kinji Hiyoron* in his paper No. 111, has gone so far as to say, that our not mentioning that the increase of paper money is the cause of the rise, is because we look upon the matter in a different light. But our opinion is that the rise of dollars is *not* caused by the increase of paper money. Saying this, our opponents may take us to be flatterers, or those who seek to guide in favour of somebody. But this is not so, and we can give an explanation of our argument.

Although there are more than one cause of the rise of dollars, the principal one is the south-western war of last year. If we say so, it may again be said, that as the Government has employed the gunpowder and ammunition which it kept for many years, during the war of last year; although it had to purchase a small quantity of cloth or blankets, this can not have affected the price of dollars so much as we see now. This can only be said by those who 'knowing the first, are ignorant of the second.' We too are aware (as our opponents may say) that the purchases of the Government are but trifling. We therefore do not mean to say that this is the only cause. Pray let us complete what we have to say. About eight or nine tenths of more than 40,000,000 yen expended by the Government for the war of last year, was all distributed among the people in the Kiushiu districts, and by this the people having obtained unexpected wealth, spent it all in luxuries which is an unavoidable thing consequent upon natural desire. And an immense quantity of muslins, Chinese cords* and cotton goods, &c. have been sent to that district, as we have often before said. It may, therefore, be not too much to say that more than half of the above amount has been paid back into the open ports, such as Yokohama, Kobe, &c. Although silk, which is the most important of our exports, has been exported in good quantity, its price was not very high, owing to the trouble in European countries,

* We have not the dimmest idea what our translator means by 'China cords' but the name of any import would fit the argument.
Ed. J. T.

and tea, which comes next in importance, was in a very unfavourable state as the public may know. By these circumstances, balance in imports and exports was lost, and although we saw a little more favourable condition during the month of December last, in January and February of this year, trade in silk became very dull and the only products which were being exported to any considerable amount were rice and corn, (and these being chiefly exported by the Government, the money paid for them is kept in the Government treasury and not yet circulated among the public). On the contrary, imports, such as muslin, Chinese cords and cotton goods, &c. are continuing, and although as we have not seen the Government's list of exports and imports, we are unable to know the precise amount, an excess of about 1,000,000 *yen* of original price, must, according to our own calculation, have been incurred for imports each month. The balance of trade having thus failed in exports, merchants in the interior have no means of obtaining Mexican dollars; but as, when goods under contract arrive, they must pay with dollars, however dear they may be, they have had to buy them. On this occasion speculators seizing their opportunity, have contrived to cause the rise at the present time. Its immediate cause is the inequality of exports and imports, and this has been caused by the south-western war, by which imported goods have been introduced into districts where they have never been employed hitherto. This is the reason that we simply say that the war is the cause of the rise of dollars. Look at the current price of the pound sterling in London. As we have already explained in our number 71, the price of silver has greatly risen in London, whilst the rate of exchange between Yokohama and London has gone down to from 4 shillings to 3 shillings 11.25 pence for six months' sight bills. Although the banks have plenty of dollars, it being unprofitable to buy Gold *yen* or bullion for export; they were obliged to keep the dollars in their hands. This is one cause why dollars have been allowed to keep up their high price; and indeed this can be clearly seen from the fact that the price of Gold *yen* does not rise in proportion to that of dollars.

We will compare them:—

	Mexican dollars	Paper-money	Mexican dollars	Gold <i>yen</i>
Feb. 14...	1.00 cost	64.05 momme	1.00 cost	58.2 momme
Nov. 5...	1.00 „	68.25 „	1.00 „	58.95 „

If we calculate the rate of buying with paper-money of these two days the excess is 4.2 momme. But if we calculate that of buying with Gold *yen*, there is only a difference of 0.75 momme. Thus if the rate of exchange is at about 3 shillings 8 or 9 pence as usual, the banks would at once purchase Gold *yen* or bullion and pay out the dollars. In that case, the Gold *yen* being a sort of export, it would somewhat keep up the equivalence of exports and imports, and thus that the price of dollars would not continue so high is a matter to be easily understood.

EXTRACTS.

THE BARBOUR CASE.

THE Barbour case seems to ourselves of such importance, that we have taken the trouble to read up carefully the whole of the proceedings in the Rolls Court. We are indebted to Messrs. Williamson for the opportunity of doing so, and seeing that they fill a large volume of 600 pages and require to be read most attentively, we are perhaps justified in believing that very few persons in India have taken the same trouble. We took this labour upon ourselves, for the express purpose of being able to state with precision and clearness, what our previous acquaintance with the proceedings made us believe to be the strong points in Messrs. Williamson's case. And the result, quite unexpected by ourselves, is a very strong conviction that the suit ought never to have been instituted at all. The strong points in the case against Messrs. Barbour, dwindle down very considerably, when the proceedings are read with proper attention; and the conviction left upon our mind, by an unbiased and very careful re-perusal of them, is that in opening these accounts to redress what they deem injustice to themselves, the injustice which the plaintiffs are doing to the

defendants is overwhelming. We promised to put the strongest points in the case before our readers; but it is the fact that the more closely we view the case, the stronger becomes our conviction that the suit ought never to have been instituted. The general impressions conveyed to the world by Sir George Jessel's judgment, and by the comments of the London Press upon the case, and that have been reflected in some of the Indian newspapers, are as wide as possible from a really fair statement of its merits; at all events as we read the case. The temptation to compromise it will be overwhelming after such a judgment as Sir George Jessel's; but such a compromise is greatly to be deprecated, as the whole commercial world is interested in having the judgment of a full Bench upon the case.

For ourselves, we do not believe it possible altogether to eliminate 'customs,' 'usages,' or 'understandings' from the conduct of business, and never to do or leave undone anything without the letter of written agreement as authority; yet this is the unreasonable demand which the Master of the Rolls makes of business men, for any profit they may otherwise make may, to their astonishment be some day characterized as robbery and fraud. There are good, unobjectionable 'customs' and 'usages' in most trades, and where Messrs. Barbour deserve blame, is not in having followed Manchester usages in their invoices, but apparently in having at times abused usages, that are in themselves good and fair. Sir George Jessel, in his anger at usage being pleaded to cover these abuses, draws no line between the two things. With him, every thing is fraud that does not rest upon express written agreement between parties in business. Now a sweeping judgment like this is, we think, monstrous, and much that he condemns as fraud no reasonable person can so regard, *e.g.*, the practice of Manchester houses of underwriting their own risks, that is, acting themselves as the insurers of the goods they ship. To make it a fraud, there must be active, positive concealment of the fact that they are so doing. Manchester usage may properly be pleaded, we think, as sufficient excuse for not expressly calling the attention of their clients to the fact that they were so acting; not expressly asking the client's sanction to what is a usage of the trade. What, in particular, we ask, would become of profits made in the legal profession, if no charge were to be allowed, for which an express written agreement could not be produced?

A very little inquiry and reflection suffice to shew that a tariff of equitable *customary* charges, is sometimes the only practicable way that can adopted; and a very good illustration is afforded by the usual charge for rent on packages of merchandise, lying for sale on consignor's account in an agent's godown. The agent, though not a professional warehouseman, has a clear right to house the goods on his own premises, and make any profit he can out of the rent on these packages, up to the limit of what is fair and equitable, a limit to be ascertained presumably, say by what the Bonded Warehouse Company charges. In so doing, he is strictly neither an agent engaging warehouse room for the goods, nor is he exactly a principal in the matter. He takes advantage of the fact that he himself has godown room for the goods, and charges what he thinks is a fair and equitable rent upon the packages. And this is part of the profits of his business. Now Sir George Jessel says that this is fraud, because his interest as a warehouse-keeper become antagonistic to those of his principal. He wants to get as much rent as he can, while his principal wants to pay as little as he can. In these circumstances, fair and equitable usage comes in to regulate the charge; while, according to Sir George Jessel, it is fraud. The agent ought not to have housed the goods himself, but got them housed on the very lowest terms possible in other warehouses. The judgment is intensely one-sided, where it should have drawn a broad line between honest mercantile usage and understanding, and their abuse. It is not a light matter, but a very serious one, for a great mercantile community like that of Manchester, to have its whole course of business branded as dishonest before the world, on the ground that its usages are open to abuse. Condemn the distinct abuse as severely as you please, but do not lay down the monstrous principle that there is no such thing as honest mercantile usage, custom, or understanding in business, while men are dealing to the extent of millions sterling a year on such understandings, without a written line between the parties.

(The Friend of India and Statesman.)

CURRENCY QUACKS, AND THE SILVER BILL.

*From the 'North American Review';
(Concluded from our last.)*

And here the case might well enough be rested were there not so many men in Congress and in the press who prefer to compose their own conclusions on the recoinage of the silver dollar, and whose capacity to do so need not be questioned, as they themselves have not suspected it. But their compositions are open to suspicious review, all the same. Here is Mr. Stanley Matthews, for example, who opened the Senate debate on the silver bill with an argument of which the pith is given in his resolution below,* and Senator Thurman said he was "marvellously curious to know by what kind of reasoning a lawyer could arrive at any other conclusion than is asserted by this resolution."

Would Senator Thurman be surprised to hear that this argument is not convincing, because it is a merely legal argument? If it were all true, and besides were all of the truth, it would fall short of its conclusion. But it is neither; and, if it were both, it would establish only permission for economic and prudential arguments to be exclusively considered. Moreover, it skips the statesman's if not the lawyer's prior question—the expedient time and circumstance. More silver being in daily use, in pockets and pantries, on this continent than ever before, the silver bill could have waited. Two standards of dollar-value tormenting us now by favor of Congress and the United States Supreme Court, one of them variable, the proposal that Congress should anticipate the court in declaring that its laws have established a third standard, more variable than either and worse than both, might have been postponed. To one currency illegal, inconvertible, useless abroad and needing removal ere enterprise can revive in confident security, the plan to add another, non-exportable in nine-tenths of our foreign trade, or all, might have been deferred; the necessity was not urgent. Having one currency which, consisting of notes believed to be payable in gold, has nevertheless fluctuated in value from 100 to 43 and back again to 97, in fifteen years, a scheme to displace gold and substitute for the basis silver, which itself has fluctuated more than fifty per cent. in the last hundred years, might have been adjourned.

To begin with, Mr. Matthews in his first "whereas" omits to cite an important part of the act of March 18, 1869. Not only did Congress in that act pledge the faith of the United States to the payment in coin or its equivalent of all the interest-bearing obligations of the United States, but it began by first pledging "the faith of the United States to the payment in coin or its equivalent of all the obligations of the United States not bearing interest, known as United States notes," and it ended by enacting that "the faith of the United States is also solemnly pledged to make provisions at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of the United States notes in coin." What the "earliest" duty of currency-tinkers is, then, a "marvellously-curious" lawyer might find out, unless confused by the fact that, while over \$350,000,000 non-interest-bearing notes were in circulation, and "earliest" due, the Government has demanded, made a higher

* "Whereas, By the act entitled 'An act to strengthen the public credit,' approved March 18, 1869, it was provided and declared that the faith of the United States was thereby solemnly pledged to the payment in coin or its equivalent of all the interest-bearing obligations of the United States, except in cases where the law authorizing the issue of such obligations had expressly provided that the same might be paid in lawful money or other currency than gold and silver; and—

"Whereas, All the bonds of the United States authorized to be issued by the act entitled 'An act to authorize the refunding of the national debt,' approved July 14, 1870, by the terms of said act, were declared to be redeemable in coin of the then present standard value, bearing interest payable semi-annually in such coin; and—

"Whereas, All bonds of the United States authorized to be issued under the act entitled 'An act to provide for the resumption of specie payments,' approved January 14, 1875, are required to be of the description of bonds of the United States described in the said act of Congress approved July 14, 1870, entitled 'An act to authorize the refunding of the national debt;' and—

"Whereas, At the date of the passage of said act of Congress last aforesaid, to wit, the 14th day of July, 1870, the coin of the United States of standard value of that date included silver dollars of the weight of four hundred and twelve and one-half grains each, as declared by the act approved January 18, 1837, entitled 'An act supplementary to the act entitled "An act establishing a mint and regulating the coin of the United States"' to be a legal tender of payment according to their nominal value for any sums whatever; Therefore—

"Be it resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring therein), That all the bonds of the United States issued or authorized to be issued under the said acts of Congress hereinbefore recited are payable, principal and interest, at the option of the Government of the United States, in silver dollars, of the coinage of the United States, containing four hundred and twelve and one-half grains each of standard silver; and that to restore to its coinage such silver coins as a legal tender in payment of said bonds, principal and interest, is not in violation of the public faith, nor in derogation of the rights of the public creditor."

price for by demanding, and paid off with the proceeds of the sale of more than \$400,000,000 gold, a corresponding amount of the interest-bearing obligations of the United States not due.

Besides, Mr. Matthews omits from the whereas that drive him to a resolve one whole act, a "whereas" just as coercive as any, to wit, the act of February 12, 1873, which abolished the then obsolete silver coin of 412.5 grains, and refused it thereafter the name and quality of "dollar." So that, like him who lost his eyes in the bramble-bush, if this Senator has whereassed himself from legislation previous to 1877 into a resolve to have such a coin and dub it "dollar," he can whereas himself out again into legislation also prior to 1877, and nobody hurt.*

But even if the act of 1873, bastard or heritable, were not such a finality as at least forbids the United States to abuse its sovereign coinage-power over its contracts made between voluntary and equal negotiants, Mr. Matthews's argument otherwise lacks cogency by its omission of an essential part of merely legal facts and relations. This time it is the central core of the legal truth which he overlooks. For it is here submitted that the essential characteristic of the laws prescribing and regulating the coined legal money of the Union, from the beginning when Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, supposing that gold and silver could both be kept in circulation as full legal tender at a ratio of exchange, to be ascertained from the markets, and then declared and fixed by law, and the original coinage act said that "in all payments shall" [lbs. Silver] 15=1 [Gold lbs.], down to the year 1853, when Thomas Corwin, of Ohio, was followed by James Guthrie, of Kentucky, as Secretary of the Treasury, and this Government abandoning the attempt to find, follow, or fix that ratio, reduced silver to a subsidiary coinage, demonetized it by taking from the fractional coins 7.4 per cent. of their weight, and limiting their legal tender to five dollars—from 1792 to 1853, the quintessence of every coinage act has been to find and fix an equality in market value and purchasing power between that quantity of gold and that quantity of silver upon which those acts conferred the name of "dollar" and the quality of legal tender.

"Dollar" being the name of our standard of value in either metal, whatever the ratio and whether one term of the ratio was a numerical unit, and the other term 15 or 16 of those units, or whether both terms were of troy grains bearing the same ratio as the units in the other case, the purpose of the ratio always was to insure equal purchasing or paying power to the defined quantity of either metal—was always to indorse the commercial equivalence symbolized in the sign of equality. "Dollar" being the legal unit in every equation and act of exchange, and both metals having the full legal-tender quality, the first purpose of those honest law-makers was to see that the dollar coined in gold and

* This is as good a place as any to refer to the common charge that the passage of the act of 1873 was furtive and fraudulent. On the contrary, the bill was prepared by John Jay Knox, Deputy Comptroller of the Treasury, in 1869, transmitted to the Senate by the Secretary of the Treasury, in 1870, the views and criticisms of the Mint and Treasury officers and others versed in metallurgy and coinage having been previously collected and published by order of the House of Representatives. Mr. Knox's report accompanied the bill, explained it, and referred specifically to the silver dollar and its discontinuance as a standard. For two years it was discussed, amended, conferred upon by committees of the two Houses, and after three years' consideration, after a commendation by the Secretary of the Treasury in his annual report for 1872 to "prohibit the coinage of silver for circulation in this country," and after a speech by Judge Kelley, of Pennsylvania, declaring: "It is impossible to maintain the double standard. You must have one standard coin which shall be a legal tender for all others, and then you may promote your domestic convenience by having a subsidiary coinage of silver," the bill was passed, and became law. The charge thus refuted by the *Congressional Record* and executive documents, is also refuted by the economic journals of the time, the discussions of experts like Frederick Hymdriks (London *Economist*, May 5, 1873) and Bagehot, and the admirable and exhaustive treatise ('The Metric System,' Appendix A) by President Frederick A. P. Barnard, of Columbia College, which, by-the-way, may disclose the origin of the slight change in the half and quarter dollar, etc., enacted in the same law, whereby they were happily brought into some conformity with the metric coins of the Latin Union and several states of Central and South America. It is surprising that when so many men waked up, after the price of silver fell to find themselves defrauded of a proper knowledge of its demonetization in the act of 1873, not one of them has yet risen in his wrath to denounce the foreign bondholders, by whose machinations probably Congress, about the same time, was seduced into permitting him to measure his whiskey in hectolitres and his weight, when made, in kilogrammes. The indictment for bastardy brought against the act of 1873 omits to name the father; but that is of course a trifle which "the 5,000 representative men of Chicago" at their next mass-meeting, will doubtless correct. Since the act followed twelve years after the complete disuse and actual explosion of silver by money, it might be as well for them not to charge it with depreciative efficacy in the same breath that they expose the secret, black, and midwint'ght deed. And if their purpose be indeed to raise the price of silver by the silver bill, so that no creditor shall be cheated a cent's worth in "the swart set by-and-by," they will do wisely to rebuke, at the next "terrible" arousement of their wrath, Senator Jones, General Ewing, Judge Kelley, and others, who assembled the same day in Washington as they in Chicago, and organized a "greenback league" and "intelligence bureau" for franking, and "snowing" old inflation speeches over the Eastern States.

the dollar coined in silver were equivalents, and, by prescribing their respective weight and fineness, to give them but a single significance on either side of the equation. So long as we endeavored a bi-metallic currency, from 1792 to 1853, and whatever the terms of the ratio, *in hoc signo*, in that sign of equality, —, conforming to the commercial fact and establishing the legal fact, resided and reside the public honor and the midmost heart of every coinage law.

Yet the silver bill proposes that the unvaried "dollar" of American coinage, now by law housed in 25.8 grains of standard gold, shall also be found in 412.5 grains of standard silver, these quantities being to each other as 1 to 16, whereas the commercial equivalence of the metals now is found in the ratio of quantity, 1 = 17, or even 1 = 18, and fluctuating daily. And Messrs. Matthews, Ewing, Jones, and Bland, would fain persuade us to revive an obsolete, discarded silver piece, in order that the United States may pronounce its equality to the gold-coined "dollar" in law, and profit by its inequality in fact.

There is still another coinage act and a group of coinage facts necessary for Mr. Matthews to regard, although, to be sure, they quarrel with his conclusion. Owing partly to the Government's errors, pointed out by Mr. Gallatin, in the established ratio of quantities of the two metals made equal in exchange, and partly to changes in that ratio which took place after a certain one had been fixed, the old bi-metallic difficulty, and partly also to other causes tedious to mention, the unit coined in silver, being then worth more as metal than as "dollar," streamed to the melting-pots and foreign parts. Few were coined, none remained in use.*

But, so that silver might be kept in the country for its convenience as small change, an act in 1853 was passed omitting mention of the silver dollar altogether, for it had practically ceased to exist, reducing the quantity of silver in the half-dollar and minor pieces, and limiting their legal tender. Now, where there is a silver coinage subsidiary to gold, overvalued and of limited legal tender, the standard of value for it and every other commodity is, and cannot but be, gold. The enactment of 1853, therefore, it was, standing in unimpaired authority when silver and gold gave place to paper, which then consigned silver to its subsidiary role, discarded bi-metalism as impracticable with unlimited legal tender, and thenceforth made the dollar coined in gold our sole metallic standard and unit of value. The act twenty years later did but give strength and entablature to that pillared law.

But were all this otherwise, were legal obstacles out of the way, were the obligations of honor and the refinements of equity all conciliated, the whole economic argument would still remain untouched, the whole prudential argument would be unapproached. Now, as to the latter, there are many persons like Del Mar who prefer instructing Ricardo to learning how to spell. For them the existence of a gigantic debt invites a summary scaling of its weight, with every consequence, as an act of consummate prudence and sure profit. To such minds the reply may be suited that the burden of the tax-payer can be lightened by no such contrivance. It is vain. Nothing less than total repudiation will do their job. That may entail some inconveniences, but it offers the only prize their rascality can more than clutch at. When a great debt has to be carried for years, entailing a constant necessity of renewing transactions, the only way of diminishing the profit of the bondholder is by practising scrupulous honesty upon him. That is the best policy. It beats cheating by about \$333,000,000 in thirty years.†

In so far as the debt is held in the United States, the loss to the creditor classes would be at least as great as the gain to the debtor classes. Who are the creditor classes? Here are some of them. In the savings-banks of New York State, 861,000 persons are depositors of \$319,700,000, and the assets of these banks include, moreover, \$80,755,000 of United States securities. In the savings-banks of the United States over 2,500,000 persons are de-

* But few dollars were coined in silver from 1792 to 1804, less than 1,800,000; none were coined from 1804 to 1839; few from 1839 to 1853, less than 1,100,000; few from 1853 to 1870, less than 2,800,000, and less than as many from 1870 to 1877. Our total coinage of the "dollar" in silver had thus been a trifle over \$8,000,000, and this while during the same period from 1792 to 1877 our total coinage was over \$1,205,000,000. According to the director of the Mint, the silver dollar of the Fathers of 1792 "did not enter to any extent into circulation as money." Nor did the silver dollar of the Fathers of 1837-53, for, "notwithstanding there had been a continuous coinage of the small silver coins, they had, in consequence of their tender valuation been melted and exported to an extent rendering changes money very scarce, and entailing great inconvenience to the country, and a new adjustment again became necessary." And now what was done? So being the ground up of coinage facts, what was then the coinage act? In 1849 a gold dollar was coined (angles and their multiples previously), and in the five years 1849-53 more dollars were coined in gold than had been coined in silver from 1792 to 1877.

† Mr. Ellis, of the Third National Bank, New York City, demonstrated this by calculations read in the ears of the Senate Finance Committee.

positors of \$1,377,000,000. Their deposits are small in most cases. They are the wage-receivers, the industrious, saving poor. They are the lenders of this enormous amount to the borrowing banks which lend it again in larger sums to the borrowing capitalists and business-men who therewith employ the original lenders. The life-insurance companies of the United States, holding also among their assets \$30,421,142 United States stocks and securities, have insured the lives of 706,179 persons, on which their present liability is \$346,279,780. They, too, are agents for lending vast sums to the well-to-do, wherewith labor is employed. From these vast aggregates the silver bill will strike off ten per cent. of the value. In the census of 1870, as Mr. Garfield vainly told the blatant repealers of the resumption-day pledge, it was calculated that on any given day there were \$120,000,000 due to laborers in the United States for their unpaid wages. The silver bill proposes to swindle them of \$12,000,000 before cock-crowing.

In short, the creditor class is the numerous class, and the debtor class the small class, as any man may see by polling his own and his neighbor's households. The great capitals are the aggregate of small savings. So the "more money" that is cried for, silver or shipplaster, is not the needed thing. It is this loanable capital, now paralyzed with distrust by delayed resumption, and imminent silver swindles. Having ought to sell that bears a market price, who, between Pembina and Key West, finds the sale frustrate for lack of currency or some means of exchange? Having a well-devised enterprise to employ capital and labor at a profit, what captain of industry, from Bangor to Galveston, ever found loanable capital so hard to get at any price? Who knows the "dollar's" future worth? But if our captains of industry cannot hire capital, they cannot employ labor; and that implies hungry mouths unfed, shivering at cold hearths, and the wolves of poverty at a thousand doors.

Ignorance which seats itself in the chair of Knowledge is thus the mother of revolutions in politics, Chicago resolutions, and Missouri silver bills. The prosperity of the people of the whole Union now depends upon their ability to detect charlatanry by its apparent marks, and to choose, rather than the blind leadership of blind guides in Congress, a wise deferring to the authority of the consentient judgment of the practised economists, the best financiers, and the first statesmen, of the foremost civilized nations of both hemispheres. For, as De Morgan said to the circle-squarers, it would be right and proper for every hungry hodman or unemployed ditcher to say to his well-fed representative who applies silver solutions to national finance: "Mr. Moses, before I allow you to lead me over the Red Sea, I must have the proof that you are learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians on this subject."

MANTON MARBLE.

[As a corollary to the argument in Mr. Manton Marble's last paragraph it occurs to us that the republication of the following petition by an obscure Britisher, who lost some money on a previous occasion by trusting the Republic, may not be ill-timed.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the REV. SYDNEY SMITH to the HOUSE OF CONGRESS at WASHINGTON.

I PETITION your honourable House to institute some measures for the restoration of American credit, and for the repayment of debts incurred and repudiated by several of the States. Your Petitioner lent to the State of Pennsylvania a sum of money, for the purpose of some public improvement. The amount, though small, is to him important, and is a saving from a life income, made with difficulty and privation. If their refusal to pay (from which a very large number of English families are suffering) had been the result of war, produced by the unjust aggression of powerful enemies; if it had arisen from civil discord; if it had proceeded from an improvident application of means in the first years of self-government; if it were the act of a poor State struggling against the barrenness of nature—every friend of America would have been content to wait for better times; but the fraud is committed in the profound peace of Pennsylvania, by the richest State in the Union, after the wise investment of the borrowed money in roads and canals, of which the repudiators are every day reaping the advantage. It is an act of bad faith which (all its circumstances considered) has no parallel, and no excuse.

Nor is it only the loss of property which your Petitioner laments; he laments still more that immense power which the bad faith of America has given to aristocratical opinions, and to the enemies of free institutions, in the old world. It is in vain any longer to appeal to history, and to point out the wrongs which the many have received from the few. The Americans, who boast to have improved the institutions of the old world, have at least equalled its crimes. A great nation, after trampling under foot

all earthly tyranny, has been guilty of a fraud as enormous as ever disgraced the worst king of the most degraded nation of Europe.

It is most painful to your Petitioner to see that American citizens excite, wherever they may go, the recollection that they belong to a dishonest people, who pride themselves on having tricked and pillaged Europe; and this mark is fixed by their faithless legislators on some of the best and most honourable men in the world, whom every Englishman has been eager to see and proud to receive.

It is a subject of serious concern to your Petitioner that you are losing all that power which the friends of freedom rejoiced that you possessed, looking upon you as the ark of human happiness, and the most splendid picture of justice and of wisdom that the world had yet seen. Little did the friends of America expect it, and sad is the spectacle to see you rejected by every State in Europe, as a nation with whom no contract can be made, because none will be kept; unstable in the very foundations of social life, deficient in the elements of good faith, men who prefer any load of infamy however great, to any pressure of taxation however light.

Nor is it only this gigantic bankruptcy for so many degrees of longitude and latitude which your Petitioner deplures, but he is alarmed also by that total want of shame with which these things have been done; the callous immorality with which Europe has been plundered, that deadness of the moral sense which seems to preclude all return to honesty, to perpetuate this new infamy, and to threaten its extension over every State of the Union.

To any man of real philanthropy, who receives pleasure from the improvements of the world, the repudiation of the public debts of America, and the shameless manner in which it has been talked of and done, is the most melancholy event which has happened during the existence of the present generation. Your Petitioner sincerely prays that the great and good men still existing among you may, by teaching to the United States the deep disgrace they have incurred in the whole world, restore them to moral health, to that high position they have lost, and which, for the happiness of mankind, it is so important they should ever maintain; for the United States are now working out the greatest of all political problems, and upon that confederacy the eyes of thinking men are intensely fixed, to see how far the mass of mankind can be trusted with the management of their own affairs, and the establishment of their own happiness.

May 18, 1843.

THE JAPAN TIMES,

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
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CONTENTS OF No. 11. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. MARCH 16TH, 1878

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PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

'The Battle of Uyeno.'

CURLING, No. II.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.—NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO: From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 11 The Envoy's Message.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The Right of Property in Money. The Mexican Dollar an Excessiveness on Japanese Trade. The Cause of the Rise in Value in Mexican Dollars.

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Currency Quacks and the Silver Bill, (from the *North American Review*)

Mr. Gilead P. Beck's Experiences as an Editor (from *The Golden Butterfly*).

Professions and Trade Directory. The Housekeeper, Mail Steamers Register

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15th 1878.

Commercial telegrams from Europe up to-day having been more encouraging, and the price of the native paper currency having been steadier, a decided improvement in tone has been manifest in both Import and Export markets. Prices have slightly advanced and a fair amount of business has been done. The prominent feature of the week's transactions has been the settlement, almost entirely to arrive, of nearly \$350,000 worth of cotton yarn. We believe the explanation of the demand for this article is to be found in the statements made in our leading columns last week. But the fact that cotton grey goods do not partake of this demand should conclusively convince Manchester that the guilt of adulteration of her manufactures is bearing its own punishment.

IMPORTS:—The very large sales of Yarns referred to in our general remarks above comprise nearly all we have to say respecting this market. A slight rise in prices all round has taken place, but not more than can be accounted for by the recovery of the paper currency from its lowest point of 460 to 438-440, at which average figure it has stood through the week. The bulk of the yarn business has been in 16-24s. Transactions in all other goods, both cotton and woollen, have been of no special importance. Quotations and particular remarks will be found in our table on another page.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** Since our last report, rather more encouraging advices have reached us from the European markets, and the result here has been a better demand for the article, and a rise in prices of \$10 to \$20 per picul all round. About 700 native bales have been brought into buyers' godowns, during the past seven or eight days, and it appears probable that much of this will be settled. Good silks, especially good hanks, are now becoming very scarce indeed. We cannot estimate stocks altogether at a figure over 2,000 native bales.

The French Mail of the 12th inst. took away 259 bales, making the export to date 19,886 bales. This shows a slight excess in the export of the season, over that of 1876-77 at the same period, the figure then being 19,719. It must also be noted that, this season, many shippers have been increasing the size of their shipping bales—so that the season's export is thus brought decidedly above that of the last; which is remarkable, as last season's export was generally considered an exceptional one. We believe that the reason of this excess is to be found in the stimulus given by the Government to producers of both silk and tea, with the view of re-imbursing the country for the expenses of repressing the Kiushiu rebellion.

Our readers interested in silk will probably have heard that silkworms' eggs,—by latest advices,—were being offered in Milan at 3 to 3.50 *lire* per carton, without buyers. This price would bring out most shippers without loss—on account of the very low average figure at which last season's purchases were made; but it is to be expected that they will have to suffer a still farther reduction from this ridiculously low price. The Tea market is closed for the season; and in neither Import nor Export markets, have we any remarks to offer on anything but staple goods, as above.

EXCHANGE:—The business done during the week has again been on a moderate scale, and no important transactions call for remark. The demand for Bank paper has not been large, almost the whole of the large transactions in Yarns having been sales 'to arrive.' Few transactions in private paper are recorded. The ruling figures have been 4s. 0d. for Bank and 4s. 0½s to ½ for Credits; but the market closes a shade weaker.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d., sight 3s. 10½d. Credits, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 5.02, sight 4.92. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.05. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 72½. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight ¾ *pro* disc. Private, 10 days' sight 1¼ *pro* disc. San Francisco Bank sight 94. New York Bank, sight 93½. BULLION. Gold Yen 392, Kinsatsu 411.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
Feb. 6	Feb. 8	Feb. 10	Feb. 11	Feb. 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
May 5	May 7	May 9	May 10	May 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
March 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
" 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	April 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	May 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the Belgic O. & O. S. S. sailing 22nd March.

* To connect with the P. M. S. S. City of Tokio sailing April 4th.

•• The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

•• No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

•• Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

•• Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
Aug. 14	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 15
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	" 29
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 16
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	" 30
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	Dec. 14
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	" 20	" 28
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	'79 Jan. 11
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 8	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	" 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 7
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
June 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
" 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 3	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 18	" 25	Feb. 2

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THENCE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Mar. 13	Mar. 21		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Mar. 20	Mar. 28	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Feb. 1	" 23		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 19	May 6	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	Feb. 8	" 31		M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 26	" 13	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Mar. 4			P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 22		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Feb. 21			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco			

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Mar. 9	Suminoye Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	852	Hakodate	Mar. 5	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 9	Frederick Perthes	Walder	Ger. barq.	446	Takao	" 7	Sugar	Chinese.
" 9	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Hiogo	" 7	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 10	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,260	Hiogo	" 8	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 11	Paralos	Paseo	Frch. barq.	340	Newcastle N.S.W.	Jan. 15	Coal	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 12	Alerta	Talbot	Brit. schr.	215	Takao	Feb. 24	Sugar	Netherlands Trading Co.
" 12	Saikyo Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Shanghai & ports	Mar. 6	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 14	Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	Ger. barq.	431	Hamb'g via Kobe	" 10	General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 15	Volga	Rolland	Frch. str.	1,502	Hongkong	" 7	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 15	Sumida Maru	Hubnet	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	" 13	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Saikyo Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Col. Malet de Carteral, Mrs. Fujioko and child, Mrs. Ono Ishikawa, Mr. and Mrs. Nakamura, Messrs. R. B. Moslen and servant, Y. Midzuno, Takahashi, Ito Taga, C. J. Pollard, J. Newell, Clark, Bonger, Fuziki, and Fukushima in the cabin; and 1 European, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ Japanese, and 4 Chinese in the steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. J. Belknap in the cabin.
Per steam-ship *Volga*, from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Messrs. Beatty, Anivet, Rostock, and B. Harold.
Per Frch. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—Mrs. Walker, Messrs. Rostock and B. Harold. From Marseilles: Mr. Beatty. From Singapore: Mr. Arrivett.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.
FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Laira," Nov. 21; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25.
FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Summer R. Mead," Oct. 26; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Haze," Dec. 31.
FROM HAMBURG:—"August," Oct. 16.
FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—O. & O. S. S. "Gaelic," February 21. P. M. S. S. "China" March 4.
FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)
FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulakyle," Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.
FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.
FROM HONGKONG:—P. & O. S. S. "Sunda," Mar. 14.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Glenartney," S. S. "Glamis Castle," "Laurel," "Flying Spur," S. S. "Prince Friedrich Carl," S. S. "Oxfordshire," S. S. "Madras."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. March 23rd; Hongkong M. M. str. March 31st; America O. & O. about 15th or 16th March; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. March 21st.

CARGOES:—Per Jap. str. *Saikyo Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure \$5,000.00 and 326,000 00 yen.
Per Frch. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—From Marseilles, 694 packages General; from Hongkong, 4,792 packages Sugar and 327 packages General; from Marseilles for Hiogo, 117 packages General.

REPORTS:—Per Jap. str. *Suminoye Maru* reports:—Fine weather throughout. Passed barque *Nagasaki Maru* off Sagami. Saw another bark beating up to the south of the Cape.
The Japanese steamer *Kumamoto Maru* reports:—Fine weather throughout. Passed a bark beating in below Sagami, supposed to be the *Sakuragima Maru* late *Union*.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Mar. 9	Perim	Linton	Brit. str.	1,016	Kobe	Mar. 11	General	W. M. Strachan & Co.
" 10	Calders	Williams	Brit. str.	1,302	Kobe	" 12	General	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 10	City of Tokio	Mauri	Am. str.	5,050	Hongkong	" 16	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 10	Coriolanus	Cause	Brit. ship	1,045	Nagasaki	" 13	Ballast	Captain.
" 11	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,343	Kobe	" 19	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 12	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 12	Auguste Reimers	Thomsen	Ger. schr.	207	Amoy	" 14	Wheat	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 12	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,260	Kobe	" 14	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 12	Hotsupur	Shaw	Brit. barq.	520	Kobe	" 14	General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 14	Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Shanghai & ports	" 22	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 15	Suminoye Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	852	Hakodate	" 19	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 15	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	894	Kobe	" 17	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 15	Toyoshima Maru	Hubbard	Jap. str.	597	Samesawa	" 17	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Steam-ship *City of Tokio* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Morse, 2 children and 2 servant, Miss Center, Paymaster G. E. Thornton, U.S.N., Mrs. Thornton, Col. T. Bermudez, Mrs. Bermudez, and Francisco Uribebarrena.
Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. De Ojeda and infant, Mrs. Chadwick, Mrs. Houghton, Messrs. Matsuny, Youtaké, Yanagi, Kurokawa, Jasano Ken, L. Clark, Sakamoto, Okohira, Kawasaki, Fautrat, Liebers, Paul Lévy, Yong Tek, and Kuran.
Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—For Kobe: Mr. and Mrs. Mourilyan and infant, Messrs. Oestmann, McGregor, Macomber, Ishiko, Morita, Takase, Hoshino and Kirby. For Nagasaki: Messrs. Sugimoto and Matsuta. For Shanghai:—Messrs. W. Patterson, F. W. Youd, J. Bryner, and A. J. Lines.

LOADING:—*Malacca*, for Hongkong and Europe, March 19th.—P. & O. Co.
Saikyo Maru, for Shanghai and ports, March 20th.—M. B. M. Co.
Belgic, for San Francisco, March 22nd.—O. & O. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. March 19th; for Hongkong M. M. str. March 26th; for America O. O. str. March 22nd; for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. March 20th.

CARGOES:—Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—For France, 180 bales Silk; for England, 79 bales Silk. 103 bales Waste Silk; 51 bales Cocoons. For Hongkong, \$135,115.50 Treasure; for London, \$164,800.00 Treasure.
Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure 4,200.00 yen and \$5,200.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Akitsuishima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up. Repairing.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Hiroshima Maru	Burdia	Japanese steamer	1,870	Sha'hai & p'ts	Feb. 7	M. B. M. Co.	Hongkong. Shanghai & ports.
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong		P. & O. Co.	
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,146	Sha'hai & p'ts	Mar. 14	M. B. M. Co.	
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	" 15	M. B. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. M. Co.	
Tamura Maru	Dithlefsen	Japanese steamer	558	Kobe		Government service	
Tanaia	De la Marcelle	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	Feb. 22	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Japanese steamer	880	Kobe	Mar. 1	M. B. M. Co.	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	" 15	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
SAILING SHIP.							
Alerta	Talbot	British schooner	215	Takao	Mar. 12	Netherlands Trading Co.	Hongkong.
Areola	Penery	British barque	947	Newport	" 8	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Bertha Marion	Scarlett	British ship	595	London		L. Kniffler & Co.	
Frederick Perthes	Wulder	German barque	446	Takao	" 9	Chinese	
Iphigenia	Green	German barque	464	Hamburg	" 8	L. Kniffler & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Hoyenga	German barque	431	H'mb'g & K'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffler & Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands	Nov. 8	Captain	
Ladoga	Pierce	American ship	950	New York	Oct. 9	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	" 26	Captain	
Otaego	Cook	American sch'ner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
Paralos	Pasco	French barque	340	N'wen'le n.s.w.	Mar. 11	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Sacramento	Nelson	American ship	1,580	N'wen'le n.s.w.	Feb. 17	Walsh, Hall & Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1,405	Corvette	Captain Buller C.B.
BRITISH—Egeria	4	1,011	Sloop	Captain Douglas.
GERMAN—Augusta	12	1,900	Corvette	Captain Hessempflug.
RUSSIAN—Boyan		2,000	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak	8	1,100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
RUSSIAN—Vsadnick	8	1,069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.

ADVERTISEMENT.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.
 Reserved Funds £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Not's for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon	Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements	Singapore, Penang.
Java	Batavia, Sourabaya.
China	Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan	Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
 RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

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Deputy Chairman—F. D. SAABOON, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, A. McIvor Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., Ed. Tobin, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillips, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID MCLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,
 Acting Manager.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class	12 Months.....1½	Per Cent.
" " "	6 "	1 " "
" " "	3 "	2 " "
" " "	1 "	3 " "
" " "	10 days	3-16 " "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,		
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.
Second " "	3 " "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,		
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.
Second " "	2 " "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,**
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted.		Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.	
1 prize of	\$ 16,000	1 prize of	\$ 60,000
1 " " "	4,000	1 " " "	25,000
5 prizes " "	1,000 each.	5 prizes " "	5,000 each.
8 " " "	500 "	15 " " "	1,000 "
20 " " "	100 "	20 " " "	500 "
450 " " "	30 "	400 " " "	100 "
2 approximations of	\$250 "	9 approximations of	\$500 "
Ticket	\$6.00	2 " " "	250 "
		Ticket	\$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDABEAU,
No. 106 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

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March 23, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

RUINED RIVERS.

SINCE we pointed out the evils of disafforestation, six weeks ago, the foreign press of China and Japan have continued the discussion, giving valuable support to our arguments by additional illustrations and examples. We hear now that the Japanese Government has, with commendable promptitude, recognized the value of our warning,—and of our advice in the companion article on afforestation:—that the subject has been considered and fully discussed;—and that Forestry laws or regulations will be shortly promulgated. We shall not, therefore, be throwing away our labour, if we follow up the subject with a few remarks on the condition of the rivers of Japan; indicating how the evils which now so greatly decrease their usefulness can be removed; and how, in the future, they may be properly conserved. Vast sums of money, and the labour of armies of men have been applied, during a wasteful past, to achieve these results, but the evils have not been removed, they have been increased; because all this labour and treasure has been misapplied by incompetent engineers. Nothing can prevent their continued accumulation but an entire change of tactics.

The ultimate results of disafforestation are, as we have shown, destruction of arable and pasture land, change of climate, scarcity, famine, desolation. And the chief agents which work this woe are the disintegrated fragments of the denuded hills which are spread broadcast over the land by the storm-waters which overflow the choked river-beds. As these fragments crumble still smaller, into sand and silt which the water can carry, they are transported along its course, but strangling the rivers as they flow, the rapidity of motion, which is the water's only power, is lost, and decreasing as the stream nears the sea, no sufficient impetus remains at last to counteract the resistance of the tide; the water drops its load, and a bar closes the entrance of what ought to be a useful highway of trade. Such effects of the folly or the selfishness of man are pitiable: a poet might figure to himself the Naiades, struggling to bear the corpses of their slaughtered sisters, the Dryades and Oreades, to their ocean grave, but sinking themselves under their burden, and sharing a common fate; a plutonomist sighs to see Nature's gifts abused and man's toil bestowed in vain, and invokes the aid of Science to repair the ills that greed and ignorance have wrought. When Science herself applies her forces in a wrong direction, then truly 'the last state of that land is worse than the first.'

To prove that Japan is reduced to such a plight, we need but adduce a few examples of the way in which some of her rivers have been treated. In our former article we quoted the Yodo-gawa, struggling through the great city of Osaka to the sea, and the Shinanogawa, prevented by the same causes from doing its duty as the waterway of the western provinces; with mistaken engineers 'pot-

tering about their mouths.' We will now exhibit in detail the mischief their mistakes have caused, and thenafter, show how it may be repaired.

One of the most unscientific schemes, and one of the most expensive, that has ever been carried out in Japan, is the canal from Osaka to Sakai. Its main object was to afford a ready means of transport from the city to the coast port, for the contents of the overflowing rice granaries of the former; and native speculators saw, in immigration, the latter affording them a site whereon to build the structure of their fortunes. But another object was to relieve the main channel of the Yodogawa of part of its storm-waters, which periodically flooded the plains. The budding hope flowered, but it never brought forth fruit. The canal damaged the river, but itself afforded no channel to the sea; and though the Osaka rice furnished the material to supply the *saki* distilleries, which were forthwith established at Sakai, and a large spirit trade was created there, the projectors' main intention was balked. Sakai did not become the port of Osaka,—and it never will. Let us now see how the construction of the canal affected the river. It is not from Lake Biwa, whence the main branch of the Yodogawa derives its waters, that it brings the materials for its bar; but from the bare, disafforested hills which circle its basin, and those of its other two branches and their numerous tributaries. During the long summer, ablaze with sunshine, all this watershed is almost devoid of rain, and in sandy, stony, dry beds flow streams that a child can cross. But during the shortened autumn, winter, and the shortening spring, the rains descend and overcharge the soil, and a wide, turbid torrent, bearing its season's share of rock and mud and sand, rushes down to Osaka. The Sakai canal taps it, and its volume and its pace diminish together, its lithic burden sinks, and through the hundred water ways of the Japanese Venice it creeps sluggishly to the sea. Every river or canal perspective in the richest city of fair Japan is marred by ever-increasing sand banks and shallows: for ever are labourers toiling, with scoops, sand-barges, steam dredgers, with no permanent result of toil; as fast as they lift the sand, the river deposits more; yearly, hourly, daily, the obstacle grows which their misdirected labour seeks to remove, and the myth of Sisyphus in Hades becomes a reality at Tempusan.

Japanese engineers are not alone responsible for this destruction of a valuable river. Holland furnishes them with accomplices, and further up the stream, between Osaka and Fushimi, these are industriously and conscientiously doing what mischief lay in their power. What 'lumbering' (American-English for disafforestation) is to a citizen of the United States, the fabrication and employment of 'zinkstuka' is to the amphibious Dutchman. For, as the American lumberer, whose life is a contest against overbearing vegetation, forgets that all the world is not virgin forest, so the Dutch engineer,—whose

education has been mainly directed towards resistance against the encroachments of a stormy sea, or towards creating new land in spite of that ever-watchful foe,—seems to think that, as on a sea-coast, so in a river's bed, his mattress of brushwood and vegetable rope is alone of value. Now, as we shall show, in the second part of this essay, the *zinkstak*, in its proper place, is a most valuable apparatus, and we shall then take the opportunity of more fully detailing its construction; but in the Yodogawa, as applied by the Dutch engineers employed, it has worked nothing but mischief. For such a length of the river as these barriers have been placed in position, they have kept the river bed clear, by croating, or rather assisting, the scour, but—to have been of any real value, they should have been continued away, past Osaka to Temposan, and thence some half mile or so out to sea; which we need hardly say was practically impossible. As employed near Fushimi, they improved the river for the few hundred yards it had to run between them, but their ultimate effect was to drive down upon Osaka thousands of tons of solid matter with which the channel there need not have been choked.

Another, happily an abortive attempt to check the flow of a river in Japan, even more costly than that we have just described, was the canal which was meant to divert a part of the waters of the Shinanogawa, at Niigata. Three or four years ago, in the columns of another paper, the writer—reviewing an interesting Report by Mr. Vicars Boyle, then Engineer-in-Chief of the Imperial Government Railways, on the town and neighbourhood of the West-coast port; exposed the folly of the undertaking, and showed that the Teradomari Cutting,—as it was called,—on which no less than 800,000 *riō* had already been spent, so far from being serviceable to Niigata, or likely to aid in extending its trade, was worse than useless; inasmuch as, if persevered in, it would certainly further deteriorate its already bad harbour. The object of the engineers, who projected the Teradomari Canal, was in this instance only to tap the Shinanogawa, and thus, as they thought, to check the devastation caused by annual floods, when its storm-waters overflowed the banks. It is the more strange that such an error as was committed in this instance should have been made, inasmuch as right before their eyes was the line, marked by Nature herself, on which could properly be expended the funds at their disposal. About five miles north of Niigata another river, called the Aganokawa, falls into the sea. This is connected with the Shinanogawa by a subsidiary stream, or natural canal, known as the Koangagawa, which flows,—now towards that outlet, then towards this, according to the rainfall on either side, which raises the level of the water in either stream. We know from native records that—about a century ago—the Aganokawa was actually a tributary to the main river, the Shinanogawa, and—through what is now called the Koangagawa—discharged itself into it near its mouth; and the combined scour of the two streams sufficed to keep open the entrance to the Shinanogawa, upon whose bar there was then a depth of water of from sixteen to twenty feet. It would not have been difficult, with half of the money at the disposal of the Government, to reinstate this condition of things, and a very small expenditure then, employed in assisting Nature, would have cleared the Niigata river of its bar. The banks of the Shinanogawa, which is the outlet for the watershed of three provinces, Shinawa, Mushashi and Echigo, rarely rise more than three feet above its ordinary water line, and being composed of a fine alluvial deposit, easily disturbed, require fortification in some one or other of the ways to be presently described; but this might have easily been done,—the scour of the stream increased, the bar cleared away, and Niigata made really, instead of nominally, a port of trade. But the engineers who pro-

jected the Teradomari cutting overlooked this obvious and easy method of improving the river—and having only in view the object of relieving the Shinanogawa of its surplus waters in flood time, commenced to make their cut to a point *twenty-five miles distant* from Niigata. Now, considering that the Aganokawa's breaking a channel for itself through the coast had reduced the depth of water on the bar of the Shinanogawa, from twenty feet to seven, it is clear that the Teradomari canal would, had it been completed, have still further reduced the volume and velocity of the central stream, and have left, perhaps, three feet of water on the bar; when Niigata would have become, like Yedo, practically inaccessible for shipping. Happily, however, the work was of such a magnitude, and its cost pressed so heavily and continuously on the resources of the district, that the inhabitants showed very distinct signs of discontent; and the Government was compelled to abandon an enterprise which had become so unpopular, that perseverance in it might, at any moment, have been made the pretext for revolt. It is much to be regretted that so much good money was thrown away upon so foolish a scheme.

Turning from these comparatively sluggish streams at Osaka and Niigata, to the dashing Fujikawa, reputed the most rapid river in Japan, we find, applied in other forms, the same waste of labour and money; the same hopeless never-ending struggle against natural forces, instead of their subordination and utilization, which should be the aim, as they constitute the triumph, of every true engineer. The Fujikawa drains the great basin of which the old province of Koshin forms the centre and, after leaving this, it descends with great velocity through a long rocky crevasse, until it meets the sea in the Suruga Gulf. As far as Kaji Kasawa, the river port of Kofu, the chief city of the province, it is navigable after a fashion, but above this, the river is ruined. Through the plains of Koshin meander numerous streamlets, the feeders of the Fujikawa. Ascend these, and in every case you will come upon the traces and results of the wood cutter's ravages. Traversing the country roads, you are constantly opposed in your journey by mighty embankments. Climb any one of these, and you find it a river bed, dry in summer, a torrent in the rainy season. On each side massive banks, representing the labour of generations of men; and each successive year requiring to be raised and widened, stealing the ground from the landlord and his labour from the farmer. These have so grown through the centuries, that now, standing on their summits, you look down on the thatched roofs of the hamlets dotted along their bases. Ascend the course of the stream and you see the cause of all the waste of treasure and of toil. The hills are bare of wood from foot to peak, and crumble, year by year, into the river's gorge. Everywhere the same evil—disafforestation—everywhere the inevitable results which we have in our former articles on the subject, fully and minutely described.

Thus are rivers 'ruined.' The second part of this essay will teach how they may be 'rebuilt.'

GOVERNMENTAL INTERFERENCE WITH TRADE.

THE *Choya Shimbun*, in an article which we quote in another column,—'Governmental Subsidies to Trade,'—and the *Hochi Shimbun*, in another,—'The Subsidy to the Mitsui Bishi Company,'—together almost indicate, in that feeble, half-articulate way which characterizes most of the utterances of the native press, a correct expression of opinion upon the question of Government interference with trade in this special direction. The *Choya Shimbun's* article may be satirical; and the bombastic elevation of the present Mikado to the level of such men as Peter the Great and Napoleon I. justifies the supposition, as does also the admirable example of Yamashiroya Wasuke, the end

of whose mercantile career with Government capital was his suicide before his creditor's doors; but, for the rest, the satire is so thickly wrapped up that its point cannot be felt. On the other hand, the *Hochi Shimbun*, affecting to supplement, or reply to, the article in its contemporary's columns,—while perfectly well defending the subsidy to the Mitsui Bishi Mail Steam Ship Company, by adducing examples from foreign countries, and by the line of its general remarks on this particular instance, fails to do more, and leaves its readers with the impression that it probably approves of subsidies altogether; as the article in the *Choya Shimbun* induces a suspicion that the writer disapproves of them. It may be of some advantage to our own Japanese readers, if we put the matter before them in a clearer light.

It is accepted as an axiom, in all communities more advanced than that of Japan,—acknowledged as a general law of trade, well understood, and thoroughly proved by experience,—that all Governmental interference with business, anything which approaches to Governmental competition, or competition by Government's protégés, is bad, as a rule. It is the worst form of Protection, inasmuch as it has not even the fallacious appearance of protecting home industry against foreign competition, but fosters, unhealthily coddles a particular class of home industry or a subordinate section of a class, to the detriment of others. It has a pauperising, demoralising effect upon the individuals assisted, inasmuch as it neutralizes some of the legitimate impulses which should stimulate men's labour,—such as the desire of distinction and the dread of failure; it tends to create monopoly and to discourage competition; it checks invention, prevents progress, encourages slovenly work; and results, invariably, in the production of an inferior article at an unreasonably high price. A Government, for instance, gives, or lends on such terms as amount almost to a gift, the capital necessary for establishing a boot factory. To recoup itself for such outlay, it naturally gives to this workshop its army or navy contract for boots from the profits on which, realized by the contractors, it expects to be gradually repaid the sum originally advanced to them. No other bootmakers, unassisted by Government, can, to begin with, make boots at the same price as the subsidized factory, because they cannot get the capital to start with on the same easy terms; and consequently there is no competition for the Government contract. Gradually the article furnished to the commissariat deteriorates in quality, and the Government hardly dare reject it, for fear of imperilling the repayment of its loan. And so the soldier or sailor is badly shod. Or, if Government does return the inferior article on its contractor's hands, it ruins him and the subsidy advanced to him is altogether lost. Also, Government always being the largest customer for any article of prime necessity in the nation, this concentration of its patronage on the establishment under its own wing, takes from the trade generally a large amount of work, and its resulting profit, and so the many are made to suffer for the benefit of the few. Whereas, if the Government contracts were divided into a number of parts, and each part put out for competition by tender, for short terms, to all the bootmakers in the neighbourhood of a garrison at a fair price, each bootmaker would strive to produce the best possible foot-gear, the Government would get the greatest possible value for its money, and the standard of boot making generally would be raised all over the district. Both of the native writers we have quoted adduce the subsidies to Steam-ship Companies as an example of necessary or advantageous assistance given by Governments to private enterprise;—and as we shall presently show, Government interference or encouragement in such directions as this is legitimate and valuable—but even here, the principle we have illustrated by our suppositional contracts for boots

has been applied with advantage; for ocean transit of mails, and with them, unavoidably, of goods and passengers, has been materially quickened by the stimulus applied to ship-owners, of the hope to gain the prizes of Government subsidies. And this stimulus has, of course been transmitted from ship-owners to ship builders and engineers, whose inventive faculty has been taxed to the utmost to produce ships on better lines and engines more and more powerful.

There are certain departments of the business of nations, which may with great advantage be undertaken by Governments; some which it is clearly the duty of Governments to undertake; and it is to these that should be devoted such portions of the nations' funds as are available; but these must be undertaken *altogether* by Governments, and they must be such as individual subjects cannot reasonably be expected to do for themselves, or such as it would not pay individuals to attempt. For it may be taken as a general rule that individuals, even under the best of Governments, understand their own interests better, and take better care of them, than any Government ever does, or can be expected to do. But there are a certain class of enterprises, requiring very large capital, which private capitalists cannot or will not undertake, because their remuneration would be uncertain or difficult to collect—even, in some cases impossible, without the aid of legislation. Such, for a familiar instance, are lighthouses. No private individual, or company, could be expected to invest money in such an enterprise as lighting a coast, because they could not collect tolls from vessels passing at sea; and to get even the most moderate interest on their capital, they would require the intervention of Government to impose light-dues on all ships entering the ports of the country. And if a profit was got in this way, the burden of its cost would fall most unfairly on the single class of ship-owners. This, therefore, is a quite legitimate purpose for the expenditure of Government funds—that is, of the nation's funds held in trust by the Government, and the interest on capital expended, and cost of keeping the lights in order is thus borne by the whole community generally, out of general taxation—less the fair charge made on shipping in the form of light-dues. Roads, canals, railways, bridges, all such means of communication are other examples of enterprises which are best undertaken by Governments; also postal and telegraphic services. In Great Britain, where there is a plethora of accumulated wealth always seeking for investment, many of these are, and more used to be, provided by private individuals or Companies; but it is found that the public convenience is best served by Government taking charge of them; because so long as they pay their expenses, a Government does not require profit. And the public has the great advantage of uniformity of service and of charges, unattainable under private management, because no private individual or Company could well undertake the whole of such a service in a large country; or if so, could be trusted to execute it without extortion. The public would suffer, either from an oppressive monopoly, or from the opposition of conflicting interests. But, as we have said, if Government interferes at all, it must take charge of the whole work to be done. If it does less than this, either directly, or by subsidizing any individual or group of individuals, it then competes, and competes with others of its own people, for whom it is the trustee, and competes on unfair terms. The motive of the Government in making the loans and gifts, referred to by the *Choya Shimbun*, is of course most praiseworthy—to stimulate native industries and to naturalize fresh ones. But the method it employs is radically wrong. No enterprise that cannot exist without this artificial aid is worth helping; and the proper way to foster trade is to leave it entirely free. If the attention of this Government were bestowed, and the public money

spent, upon assuring to individuals the peaceable employment of capital,—by the establishment of efficient police and an equitable and justly administered code of laws; in facilitating its operations by providing efficient means of transit and communication; and were inducement offered to its employment by such bribes as grants of waste land, temporary remission of taxes, protection by patent for new discoveries, and other advantages common in other countries;—then would timid capital come forth from its hiding places, and we should no longer hear of such instances as are quoted by another native journal, of hundreds of thousands of gold and silver coin being concealed in jars, or buried in the earth. The circulating medium would really circulate, the rate of interest would fall to a figure which trade could bear; foreign capital would flow in, with foreign skill and energy to apply it, and such new enterprises as had in them germs of success, such old ones as languished for want of means, would all be developed and flourish, and the country would progress at a rate little dreamed of by a paternal Government or patriotic ministers, who with the best intentions, are now really retarding its advance.

THE Japanese Government is giving us a practical proof of its vigour and activity, in the direction which we have pointed out above as a healthy one for Governments to take, in their endeavours to assist the progress and foster the rising commerce of the people committed to their charge. Having for some years successfully managed the entire postal service of Japan, and really managed it in a way unsurpassed by any postal service in Europe, it now proceeds to take under its charge the entire telegraphic service. Hitherto, a certain amount of inconvenience has been felt by the mercantile community from the existence of two separate services, the local and European: from and after Monday next, the 25th inst., this will be obviated. On that date the Great Northern Telegraph office in Yokohama will be closed, and all messages, whether for correspondents in Japan, or in any other country in the world, will be received at, and transmitted from the Imperial Telegraph office here.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company will have but one office in Japan, that at Nagasaki, and to that point of departure all foreign messages will be sent from the Government office. For the present the tariff will remain the same;—two dollars for the message of twenty words or under as far as Nagasaki, and thence on, a dollar a word; but we are informed that the Government is negotiating with a view to hereafter charging from Yokohama on a tariff of so much per word, which will effect a saving for senders of messages. At present, a telegram to Europe or elsewhere is burdened with the two dollars for local transit, whether the message be of two words or twenty; but under the new arrangement this discrepancy will disappear.

The Government has so well and so faithfully discharged its duty as the people's letter-carrier, that we can with confidence anticipate similar success for this new experiment, and shall watch its progress with great interest. An interesting ceremony on Monday next will mark its inauguration. The Minister and Vice-Minister of Public Works will meet the Director and Chief Superintendent of the Department of Telegraphs at the Central Telegraph office, at 10 a.m., when the Minister will make the official announcement of the assumption by the Department of the full responsibility for the service, and declare the Imperial Government Telegraph lines open. At the conclusion of this ceremony all the branch lines will be brought into communication with the Central office, and messages notifying the announcement just made will be despatched in all directions and replies received, the working of the apparatus being displayed, and explained to the visitors. In the evening a grand banquet will be given in the large hall of the Imperial College of Engineering to celebrate

the event, at which will be present the whole of the Cabinet, and a large number of the higher officials. It is quite fitting that so important a step should be marked with so much pomp and rejoicing, and we cordially offer our own congratulations on the event.

THE harbour has all day been gay with flags, and the roar of a royal salute marked the hour of noon. The number of houses in the foreign settlement, which are ornamented with the red, white and black stripes, indicate how strong amongst us is the German portion of this cosmopolitan community, and how loyal to their aged sovereign, whose eighty-first birthday they commemorate today. There are other ties beside those which unite our royal families—a common origin, (though at a very remote period) of race and language, and a common religion, whichought to make Germany and England friends; though in commerce here in the East, Englishmen and Germans are necessarily rivals. In our own special province of literature, rivalry means only mutual admiration, and the sordid dollar does not enter as an element of dispute. The English student willingly owns the debt he owes to the Teutonic language, which has given such nervous, manly, force to his own tongue; acknowledges too with gratitude, the mighty gift of the printing-press; and looks up with love and admiration to the giants of German literature, the mighty teachers of philosophy, philology, and history; to Schiller and to Goethe, the great masters of poetry and the drama; while our great Englishmen—especially our loved, unapproached, and unapproachable Shakespeare, are revered and appreciated by German critics equally as by ourselves. This is no fit arena for political discussion, and we read of England and Germany having divergent interests in Europe only to bewail: it is happy for us here, that we have a neutral ground on which we can join hands in peace.

WE had commenced an 'Account of the Trip to the Bonin Islands; by the Man who didn't go'—but on looking over our library for the materials for the paper:—Kaempfer, Titsingh, Commodore Perry presented themselves as such well-known friends, that we have concluded to refrain from inflicting our tediousness upon our readers, Mr. Russell Robertson, too, in a paper which he read at a meeting of the Japan Branch of the Asiatic Society on the 15th March 1876, summarized all that previous writers had to say on the subject, added all the new matter that could be collected, and completely exhausted the subject. The year is not sufficiently advanced to permit the botanist or the florist to make any observations worth recording; only three birds and two insects fell a prey to the naturalist, the voyage there and back was stormy, the vessel, flying light, rolled terrifically, the sinologue was so seasick that he had to be landed at an convenient penal settlement, with a companion, equally learned in law and medicine, to keep an ice-bag on his spinal cord;—when the steamer reached Port Lloyd, the inhabitants displayed anything but enthusiasm; the whole party returned in a limp and dispirited condition, and the only man who enjoyed the trip was 'the man who didn't go.' Therefore, for all particulars of a thrice-told tale we refer the community to the columns of the *Japan Mail*.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE quote, amongst our 'extracts' this week, an article from the *Straits Times*, summarizing and commenting on a letter addressed by Mr. W. Knaggs, a 'tea-planter of experience, to the *Pinang Gazette*. The last quotation from his letter should be of some value also to Japanese tea-growers and merchants. The tea trade here labours—in comparison with that of China—under the same disadvantage as does that of the Neilgherries; the irregularity

of quality in the leaf which is the necessary and inevitable consequence of what we may call 'cottage cultivation. Grown from various qualities of shrub, in diverse soils, and under inconstant circumstances of climate and cultivation, the tea grown in Japan is then all mixed together and brought down here to be fired, and naturally the result is disappointing. We hear that the Japanese are persevering in their foolish attempt to make Black Tea, so far as relates to one-third of the coming season's crop. As no arrangements have been made for doing what Mr. Knaggs points out as an indispensable condition of success—the establishment in each district of well-appointed tea-firing houses, under skilled direction, where large quantities of leaf can be simultaneously and properly treated—we can but anticipate that the black tea of the coming season will display even more irregularity in quality and value than has hitherto been shown by the uncured greens. The only possible advantage we can look for as likely to accrue from this experiment is that the reduction of export of uncoloured Japans lowering stocks in America, may have the effect of making the market there firmer. For those engaged in the manufacture and export of Japan black tea, we look for nothing but disappointment and loss.

YET another passage from Mr. Knaggs' letter will bear special quotation and re-iteration. He very truly says:—

"The manipulation and curing of the leaf is the most difficult part of the tea planter's work, and the value of the manufactured tea altogether depends upon the skill and care with which this is performed. It matters not that the leaf may have been produced under the most favorable conditions of climate, soil, and manure, if the curing is defective."

How do the promoters of this inauspicious enterprise propose to secure this 'skilful' and 'careful' manipulation which is to produce an article fit to be put into competition with the product of China, the outcome of years of experience and practice? The proper way is of course, to import competent firers from China and—as it is hardly likely that Chinese would consent to work under a Japanese superintendent—that the tea-firing establishments should be put under the control of foreign experts. But all this will so increase the cost of production as to put profit out of the question. And again, even with such a staff,—if the tea is packed for export up-country,—an imperative condition of success in the case of black tea,—does the Japanese Government know so little of the foreign tea-trade as to imagine that it would be purchased by foreign exporters at the open ports without rigid inspection of every box? 'Tea is bought by the 'chop' in China from musters of a few boxes' may be their reply to this question. It seems a hard thing to say, but it is unhappily a truth,—this cannot be done in Japan, because the Japan merchants, as a class, are utterly untrustworthy, completely dead to all sense of commercial honour, and quite careless or ignorant of the value of commercial credit, and Japanese Courts of Law afford no redress to a swindled foreigner;—whereas the Chinaman can be trusted, and has learnt the lesson that "credit is the life of commerce."—and the aid of the Courts has never to be sought.

No,—If the Japanese Government wishes to have this experiment tried under fair conditions of success, let them invite foreign merchants to undertake it at their own risk. (There are foreigners to be found who disagree with us on the subject of growing Japan Black Teas.) Let these be admitted to partnership with native teagrowers, and thus combine the advantages of foreign knowledge of the requirements of foreign markets, and of foreign administration of the manufacture, with their native colleagues' command of native labour, and local knowledge of prices, climate and other circumstances; and then the product of a farm so managed, exported straight from the district on joint account, would succeed,—if success be possible at all. But when this can be done, a number of other similar and more hopeful enterprises can be done, and Japan will be a richer country, and its people and rulers better and wiser men.

IT is probable that the success of the Silk Filature at Tomioka may have induced the Government to believe that the same increase in value, which has been achieved in the reeling of Silk by the adoption of foreign methods, is

to be got out of Tea. But the bases of the two experiments are widely different. Japan Silk is intrinsically amongst the finest in the world, and that only careful reeling is required to allow it to assert its position, is proved by the high price which the Tomioka product has always been able to command, as much as \$1,375 per picul, the highest price ever paid here, having,—we believe,—been got for it when all silk was at its highest. But this new experiment with Tea will be a failure, because—widely different from the conditions in the other article—the Tea shrub of Japan is inferior to that of China, and more specially inferior to that of Assam,—for the purpose intended, the manufacture of Black Tea. The Japanese have surely an equivalent to our proverb 'You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear:—let them apply it, and perpend.

THE mention of Lighthouses as an illustration of the way in which Governments may legitimately expend the national funds to stimulate, foster, or protect trade, reminds us that some weeks ago we were favoured by the gift, from Hara Takayoshi-sama (the Commissioner of Lighthouses) of a list of the Lighthouses, Lightships and Beacons which had been established up to the beginning of this year. Art. XI of the Convention of 1866 stipulated that the Japanese Government should 'provide all the Ports open to Foreign trade with such lights, buoys, or beacons, as may be necessary to render secure the navigation of the approaches to the said Port;' but we are quite certain that the Treaty Powers did not contemplate that when the work had been done, foreign shipping should avail of its advantages without paying for them. The work has been most efficiently done: there are ten lights of the 1st order, four of the 2nd, five of the 3rd, seven of the 4th, six of the 5th, and some smaller ones and staff-lights, making in all forty lights. The earliest built exhibited their lights first in the beginning of 1869, and during the past eight years, the Department has gone on working till the coast is efficiently protected as we see it now. In addition, there are fifteen buoys and four beacons, which mark shoals and other hidden dangers; and a large staff of European and Japanese officers, with two large and expensive steamers, are employed by the Department, and are always in a high state of efficiency. And hitherto, the whole service has been gratuitously done by the Government. It is high time that 'light-dues' should figure in ships' port-charges; no objection could be made to such a tax, imposed on shipping by all maritime nations, and we hardly think the formal Revision of the whole Treaties need be waited for before the tax is imposed.

WE have received, and acknowledge with thanks, the "North China and Japan Desk Hong List" a general and business Directory for Shanghai, the Northern and River Ports, and Japan, for 1878. It is published at the *North China Herald* office and is a most complete and convenient desk companion. It is illustrated by a double Map—the Empire of China on one side, and the settlements of Shanghai on the other. To enumerate or review its contents would require more space than we have at our disposal; it is enough to say that it contains, in an accessible form, all the information on persons and places that is required in such a work. We notice two features which might be copied with advantage by the compilers of our own local Directories. The alphabetical list of firms is notched down the sides of the pages like a ledger index, so that one can get instantly at the page required—and the second, nominal, list of individuals, entitled 'Who's Who' attaches to each man's name his occupation. An appendix with a large number of useful commercial tables and other lists, constantly required for reference, complete the work.

WE had intended, this week, to summarize, and review, Mr. Manton Marble's paper on 'Currency Quacks and the Silver Bill, which we quoted from the *North American Review*. But it has been suggested to us that amendments may have been introduced into the Bill in its passage through the Senate, which might possibly modify the views we entertain after reading the original Bill. We shall have the report of the debate in the Senate, we presume by the next steamer from San Francisco, to which date we therefore relegate further consideration of the subject.

THE new Boat house is completed, and preparations are being made for the opening season. Unfortunately the boisterous sea, which breaks the landing stage yearly, now delays the erection of a new one. The new quarters ought to please the members of the Club; the house covers the same ground as the old one, while being of two stories, there is ample accommodation in the ranges of dressing rooms up-stairs, and the ground-floor is left free from all incumbrance to the stowage of boats. This arrangement is a great improvement on that of the old house: members who prefer bathing to the harder work of rowing will have plenty of room to 'calithump' around and pull each other about, without interfering with the oarsmen, or occasionally barking their shins over the rowlocks of the boats. The old house has been moved back to the rear of the new one, and fresh roofed and tiled, so that now, together, the two form quite a spacious building. It is not yet determined to what use the old house will be put; it is well adapted to boxing, fencing &c.; and at a slight additional expense, might be turned into a rink for roller skates, without at all interfering with the gymnasts; but the objection the Japanese make to the premises being lighted, would prevent full use being made of them for such purposes as these. We have but few after-dinner amusements, and an opportunity for 'rinkists,' or a sparring and fencing school would be a welcome addition to the scanty list:—what possible harm the burning of the midnight oil in such a building can do to the proprietors of the land, we altogether fail to see, as the risk of fire is virtually *nil*.

There has been as yet no announcement of the date of the opening night; but as soon as the landing-stage can be laid down, we hope that the Captain will take an early opportunity of inaugurating the new house, and sorting out any new material for crews which may be found, after its hybernation, among the members of the Club. We have heard nothing of the doings of the Tokio men as yet; having the advantage of smoother water, they ought to have got to work before this.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 22nd.

THE O. & O. S. *Gaelic* arrived in port from San Francisco at noon on Monday last having made a passage of twenty-five days, and encountering strong westerly gales the entire passage. She was despatched hence on the 22nd for Hongkong with a full cargo, principally rice. The *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai and way ports arrived on the 21st, and the *Sunda* on the 22nd, bringing the London mail of the 1st of February and one day ahead of time. The *Malacca* left with the English mail on the 19th, due in London May 6th, and the *Saikio Maru* for Shanghai and ports was despatched on the 20th. The *Belgie*, with mails, &c. for America and Europe, is to leave to-morrow morning at daybreak.

On Sunday night, with half a gale of wind blowing, we were startled, about half-past nine, by seeing an immense red glare in the sky over Tokio, and the atmosphere being particularly clear, soon could be seen underneath the flames and smoke which indicated a fire in the capital of no common magnitude. So unhappily proved to be the case, and during the week we have continued to receive details of the disaster. The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, one of the best informed of the Tokio papers tells, us that thirty-one streets were burned down, and that the number of houses destroyed was 4,261. The fire commenced in the house of a carpenter and is said to have been the work of an incendiary. It is a curious fact, pointed out by the *Japan Gazette*, that the Japanese fully expected the disaster, as they say that 'on the day of the horse in the year of the tiger,' some such happens, recurring once in twelve

years. Happily there was hardly any loss of life, only one old man, sixty-six years of age, falling a victim; but the loss of property must have been enormous, and taking five to a house, a most low average in Japan, upwards of 20,000 people must have been temporarily rendered homeless.

On Monday, the 18th, we received from Kobe the particulars of the fires mentioned in our last. Of the first, that at No. 109, Settlement, the *Hiogo News* tells us:—

"When the firebell startled the community about one o'clock on Wednesday, and the word was passed for No. 109, smoke was already issuing from between the tiles in considerable quantity. The engines were immediately on the spot, and there being no fire to be seen either in the downstairs or upper rooms, a hole was knocked in the plaster of the latter, so as to allow of the roof being pumped upon from the inside, the process of removing the furniture being in the mean time proceeded with apace, and nearly everything was got out, though of course not entirely without injury. Meantime a quantity of plaster had fallen off the ceiling upstairs and shewed the whole interior of the roof a mass of flame, and as there was a stiffish breeze blowing, it was at once apparent that notwithstanding all the available power which could be brought to bear, the fire could not be confined to the top of the house. The engines, however, confined the flames to the main building while it was as quickly as possible pulled down."

We quote these particulars, as affording a very useful warning to Fire Insurance Agents and property-owners in Yokohama. It happens that the writer knows this house well, having lived in it for nearly two years, and having had occasion, during his tenancy, to examine carefully the construction of the chimneys and their position relative to the roof. The flues were composed of drain tiles enclosed in chimneys of brick and, theoretically, might have been pronounced quite fireproof. In fact, in all probability, our friends in Kobe are quite at a loss to account for the fire breaking out,—as it did,—in the roof. And, in absence of any possible proof, we are reduced to theorize on the matter, to a certain extent, ourselves. But we fully believe the cause to have been this:—that the flue and surrounding brick work of a chimney had been so far disintegrated by an earthquake, as to have allowed of the creation of a crevice, in which soot had collected in quantity:—that this soot ultimately caught fire, and then, falling outward on some of the intricate woodwork of the roof, (in which, as usual in Japanese-built roofs, there was about three times as much timber as there ought to have been), or on to the dry laths of the ceiling,—this ignited, and hence the catastrophe. The owner is a most careful and liberal landlord, and the tiling being in perfect order, not a drop of rain had touched the timbers for years; and in the immediate vicinity of the chimneys, of course, the wood-work would be especially dry. We have our own ideas upon the method of building chimneys in Japan, as also upon the proper means whereby Fire Insurance Companies might protect themselves from a large percentage of the losses they suffer from want of proper precaution, but do not feel called upon to make a present of them to the public: we only again refer to this fire for the purpose of suggesting that those interested in the subject, here, should assure themselves that they are in no danger of suffering from a calamity similar to this in Kobe, which had apparently been thoroughly guarded against.

Our Japanese friends may find a useful lesson afforded to them in the other fire we mentioned, which occurred on the following day in the Main Street of the native town, and which caused the destruction of between thirty and forty houses. The foreign engines were on the spot with the usual promptitude of the Kobe fire Brigade, but were, almost immediately, temporarily paralyzed by want of water. Now, only about eighteen months, or two years, ago, large fire wells in imitation of those in the foreign settlement, had been dug in the native town, which were supposed to be fully equal to any demand likely to be made upon them. Yet, when tried, they were found wanting. And why? Because, having been once dug, they were never looked at afterwards, and, never having been pumped out since they were sunk, so as to keep their innumerable feeding pipes clear, they had become silted up with sand and mud. Hence, of course, their contents immediately choked the engines; and it was only by their retreating on to their own properly cared-for wells on the foreign settlement, that the brigade was able to get the necessary supply of water. Let our native readers therefore lay this to heart: that it is no use adopting any foreign improvement on their own arrangements by halves: if they buy steamboats or plant tea shrubs; import machinery or dig fire-wells, let them learn at the same time how to take care of them all. Only the other day, at the Ooji Paper Mill, a couple of months after the foreign engineer had been discharged, the main Engine was wrecked through a most crass display of ignorance: now we hear of a great destruction of property, three-fourths of which might have been saved, but for the careless neglect of very simple means of protection.

Kobe has been most unlucky during the last week or two, for we hear of yet another fire in the settlement, which has destroyed the Astor House Hotel and Messrs. Skipworth and Hammond's haberdashery store adjacent: but as yet no particulars have reached us.

The repetition performance of *Cow and Box*, and the 'Two Bonny-castles,' for the benefit of Mr. Wagner, the *chef d'orchestre*, came off on the 19th inst. we were glad to see that, though the stalls were not filled as well as on the previous Wednesday, the body of the house was thronged by an appreciative audience. As the expenses of a repetition performance are small, we should think it possible that Mr. Wagner was substantially benefited by the efforts of the amateurs. Both pieces seemed to 'go' better than on the previous occasion: in the farce especially, the crudities we had to notice last Saturday were smoothed away, *Patty* had an apron with pockets to put her hands into, and *Smuggins* was capably dressed. In the burletta, *Bouncer* was decidedly in better voice, and Messrs. Pearson and Townley both acted their parts with even more *verve* and humour than last week. The score was admirably rendered, too, until—in the middle of the serenade, *Box* by, for him, a most extraordinary accident, forgot some of the words of his part and thence to the end, band and vocalists hardly seemed to be in such sympathy as was desirable. In taking leave—we fear for a long time to come,—of this sparkling little 'triumviretta,' we would say a word to the accompanist. To accompany to perfection is an art not acquired, or perhaps acquirable, by one musician in a hundred. The more conscientious and painstaking the pianist, the worse accompanist he is likely to be. He must completely efface himself, his music, his instrument. The singer may make mistakes,—his the task to conceal;—may be weak in certain notes,—his the duty to support. After all, no score can dictate, though many composers attempt it.—expression. It is the province of actor or singer to modify this and, with it, time, to suit necessities of stage accident, or the feeling or humour of the audience. The perfect accompanist is therefore by no means he who plays correctly from the composer's music; but he who so carefully watches the vocalists as almost to anticipate their errors, and to be, therefore, ready instantly to conceal them from the house—to be so thoroughly *en rapport* with them, and so well acquainted with their idiosyncrasies as to supplement all their defects, and where they can soar alone, to subordinate the instrument to the voice. To say that Mr. Griffin hardly seemed to do all this, is perhaps to show our own ignorance of the subject: but as we have never known but one instance of its being thoroughly done, our criticism is not likely to offend. Both on Tuesday last, and on the previous Wednesday, the best accompanist's patience would have been sorely tried.

The overture to *Cow and Box* and the interpolated music played during the evening, by the band conducted by Mr. Wagner, was particularly well done: the exquisite little symphony in miniature, especially, which we so praised last week, being given to perfection.

We hear that we may expect the performance of 'Trial by Jury,' by the Choral Society about the 10th of April. The piece is being diligently rehearsed, and no pains are spared to ensure complete success. Is it too late to suggest that the proceeds from this performance,—which will certainly be large—should be given to the poorer sufferers by the late most disastrous fire in Tokio, instead of being sent over to China to aid in the perfectly futile attempt to aid the sufferers by the famine in the North Western provinces? Even the claims of our own Foreign Hospital might be postponed to those of our Japanese poor, rendered homeless and destitute by the calamity of Sunday night.

We must give a word of encouragement to the *entrepreneur* of a different class of amusement. Mr. White, whose erection of a mat theatre for acrobatic performances in the middle of the settlement we were obliged to condemn a few weeks ago, has betaken himself and his *troupe* to an open space near the public garden, where a fire cannot do any harm to any other building. He opened his season on Saturday the 16th instant, and the very clever Japanese gymnasts more than upheld the reputation they have already acquired; for they introduced a number of new feats, which were all neatly performed, though some were of a most difficult character. Notably, we may commend the balancing of a combination of three ladders, on which the little girl performed, and of a boat, twelve feet long, which was supported by one man on the soles of his feet and in which three youngsters gave an exhibition of posturing. No visitor to Yokohama should fail to see this remarkable acrobatic exhibition.

We are glad to know that the site for the new foreign Hospital for infectious diseases has been staked out, and that the building will be immediately commenced. This preliminary work was done on Thursday last by a sub-committee of the General Hospital Governors, in the presence of the British Consul and an officer from the Japanese Land Office.

We must again ask our readers' indulgence for having to leave untouched a number of items of local interest, which should be mentioned in this column. In a short time we hope to have the necessary supply of type to enable us to give a fuller record of the events of the week.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such? I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan.
(In process of answer.) B. H.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese?
(Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can he say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosai" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Man* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, Mr. Bramsen may be able to do the same for it.

2.—Copper was first coined in Japan, I believe, in the Wadō period (708-715); does Mr. Bramsen know whether the nominal values of the coins made then, and also up the time of Nobunaga, were restricted to the same denomination as afterward? The Tempō was of course named in the Tempō period (1830-1844).

3.—Can he give any account of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c., I trust that Mr. Bramsen will pardon the liberty I take in addressing myself to him; but if he should ever put a query in "Notes and Queries" which I can answer (which is doubtful), I promise him that I shall do so to the best of my ability.

It may interest coin collectors to know that a collection of copper coins, which consisted of eighty-six specimens; four of which were said to belong to the eighth century of the Christian era, six to the ninth, two to the tenth, two to the sixteenth, thirty-five to the seventeenth, and the remainder to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, was offered for sale a few months ago in Tokiō for twenty *yen*.
X.

Qy. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction.
B. A.

NOTES.

NOTE TO QUERY 1. Charcoal.] Not being an analytical chemist, I am unable to give a recipe for disposing charcoal of its inherent qualities, but I fancy even if it were possible to do so, you would at the same time destroy the natural properties of carbon,—its virtue is in its vice. This much I can suggest, which is likely to neutralize the mischief of the carbonic acid gas thrown off in process of combustion. Place a vessel containing crude charcoal in the vicinity of the stove, this will attract the gaseous matter evolved and absorb it, instead of its being left to permeate the chamber and poison the atmosphere. How carbon

does attract offensive effluvia is a matter I am unable to explain, but it is a fact nevertheless, as every medical man will readily admit.

X. Y. Z.

NOTE TO QUERY 7. The Forty-seven Ronins.] The story of these heroes was told by Mr. Mitford in his "Tales of old Japan" an easily accessible book, and more in detail by Mr. F. V. Dickins, in his 'Chinshingura, or the Loyal League,' which was published by the *Japan Gazette* two or three years ago. Wooden effigies of them, and a number of relics, such as pieces of armour, spear heads, &c. are still in existence at the temple of Sengakuji at Takanawa, just off the Tokaido, and close to the old Japanese foreign office and former British Legation. It was lately stated in the local papers that from the 19th April next, these relics will be open to public inspection.

T. M.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XII. THE TWO TREASURES.

NEARLY a month separated Hidetsugu's promise to the monitors and the arrival of Ishida's messengers in the province of Iga, for the Baron had determined not to imperil success by impatience. His instructions to his emissaries did not include the contingency of Chika's not being at her father's disposal. Reckless as Hidetsugu's life showed him to be, the possibility of his directly disobeying the Regent's orders did not enter Ishida's calculations. The messengers therefore, presenting their rolls of silk and rouleaux of gold, described the object of their visit without any hypothesis or hesitation.

But Tarao received their statement with undisguised astonishment. He declared himself totally ignorant of the circumstances they narrated, and indeed refused to credit them, arguing that if the Regent had given such an order, Chika's dismissal, and consequently her return home must have taken place long before.

The messengers were completely perplexed by this unexpected dilemma. So great an honour as an alliance with the Baron of Sawayama precluded the idea of any evasion on Tarao's part, and for the rest, the evident sincerity of the old man's denial carried its own conviction. Accordingly, having certainly ascertained by some enquires in the neighbourhood, that Chika had not yet returned to her father's house, and further engaged Tarao to prefer the Baron's proposals to all others, the two vassals made the best of their way back to Kiyoto, and reported their want of success to their master.

Ishida, though a little disconcerted, inferred nothing more than some delay on the part of those to whom Hidetsugu had entrusted the girl's escort. It might be that she was still in Kiyoto, detained by her lover's irresolution at the moment of parting, or her own natural reluctance to abandon at once all hope of recall to the palace. Sooner or later however, her father must receive some official intimation from the Minister, and then the end could neither be doubtful nor deferred.

Many days of passive uncertainty were painfully endured by this man of action. Aged as his desire was, it had never grown infirm, but constituting itself the end and principle of his existence, seemed only to gather fresh vigour from disappointment and delay. Its solitary and furtive pursuit, too, had so separated him from the sympathy of his fellows, that insensibly the whole world had appeared to range itself against him in the struggle for a prize none could avoid coveting. So in this time of suspense, every hour added to his consuming impatience, and suggested misgivings that all his secret enquiries failed to satisfy. Chika might have fallen into other hands with her own consent, or, chased from the palace by the capricious Minister, she might have been carried off by any adventurer or even bandit—for who but Ishida himself could suffice to guard such a jewel?—or, worst and most terrible of all, Hidetsugu, the ruthless, insatiable autocrat, might have ensured her eternal fidelity by consigning her to the narrow home that admits no company but decay. Strong energy suddenly convinced of its own impuissance, is of all conditions most accessible to the agony of apprehension and despondency, and those who had an opportunity of

witnessing Ishida Mitsunari's solitary suffering, at the time of these events, have decided that his punishment was not inadequate to his crime.

In the early summer, he again sent two of his most trusted officers to Iga, bearing still richer presents, and instructed, in the event of any vagueness or hesitation on Tarao's part, to bring him back with them if possible to Kiyoto.

But in the meantime Tarao, disquieted by the intelligence he had received from Ishida's first messengers, had repaired to the Palace of Pleasure, and been placed in possession of the true facts by Hidetsugu himself. Chika's dismissal was, the Minister confessed, unavoidable, but dismissal did not, and—he was determined—should not, necessitate separation. The time was perhaps not far distant, he said passionately, when the Prime Minister might be openly true to those he loved, but in the interim he had made arrangements for Chika's concealment near the palace, and he desired Tarao to inform her family that the girl no longer formed a part of the Minister's household.

If Hidetsugu's unhappy history should ever be written by an impartial hand, something less culpable than sensuality may be discovered in a faith that preferred the risk of ruin to the abandonment of the object it cherished.

Tarao, having promised his aid in these arrangements, proceeded to describe the proposals he had received for Chika's hand from the Baron of Sawayama, and Hidetsugu, connoisseur of impulses akin to those that so largely directed his own life, recognized in a moment the origin and author of the dangers that had lately menaced him.

His rage threatened for a time to blaze out into some ungovernable flame. This catiff Baron, this damnable, plotting upstart! This then was the Regent's confidant, and this the insolent hypocrite that had dared to conspire the Prime Minister's overthrow and set eyes of longing on the favourite of the first gentleman in Japan! In the early paroxysm of his passion he had almost given orders for Chika's open recall with the determination of making her his wife, so pleasant was it to picture Ishida's impotent desperation at such ending to all his hopes and intrigues; but calmer counsels presently prevailed. Henceforth he would oppose ruse by ruse, and in nothing compromise the attainment of that absolutism whose first act should be a revenge memorable in history.

In his second interview with the Baron's messengers, Tarao, therefore, acted in accordance with instructions secretly received from Hidetsugu. He greeted the officers courteously, apologized for his inability to give them a precise answer on the occasion of their previous visit, and regretted that it was not in his power to comply with their master's request, since his daughter, though no longer belonging to the Minister's household, had been given by Hidetsugu to a gentleman of Ugo, who had married her and taken her with him to his native town of Akita. Tarao explained that his own consent had not been deemed necessary to this arrangement, and professed himself much annoyed at an interference that deprived his family of the honour of an alliance with the Baron of Sawayama.

This story would have been more probable had it been less provident. The distance between Kiyoto and Akita was sufficient not only to prevent enquiry, but to awaken suspicious of contrivance, and the astute Ishida found no difficulty in reading his opponent's scheme by the light of this one miscalculation. To whatever extent his ability was impaired, in the same degree was his determination intensified by the knowledge that his designs were no longer hidden from the man whose destruction he sought, and if he permitted himself any sentiment of regret, it was only the reflection that so many days had passed unemployed.

The arrival of the Chinese Ambassadors at Fushimi was now daily expected, and preparations for their reception on the most magnificent scale were in progress, for the Regent had determined that the condition of his court and equipage should justify the kingly title by which the embassy was to address him. The consequent disbursements for armour, trappings, constructions and decorations were regulated by the Baron of Sawayama in his capacity of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and it soon became apparent to him that the castle chests could not much longer support the daily depletion to which they were subjected.

Now the Regent's treasures were three: one at Ozaka, one at Fushimi and one at Kiyoto; the first and second being under his own immediate control; but the last in Hidetsugu's hands, to whose charge it had been entrusted during Taiko's

absence of three years at Nagoya. The funds it contained, however, although under the Minister's wardship, were not supposed to be at his disposal without reference to the court at Fushimi. For the rest, the reserve at Osaka, from usage rather than intention, had been invested with the character of a war treasure.

One morning, then, early in June, the Regent gave audience by request to three of his Councillors, Ishida, Masuda and Nagatsuka. The Chancellor of the Exchequer acted as spokesman.

"We desire to consult Your Highness," he said, as to the most advisable method of obtaining finances to meet the outlay in connection with the arrival of the Min and Korean Ambassadors. Such large disbursements have been made from the Treasury here for campaigning purposes, that but little remains to satisfy this new demand, and Your Highness will not, we presume, be disposed to order any fresh levies from the nobility after the heavy imposts to which they have already been subjected. Under these circumstances it would perhaps be best if authority were given to draw the necessary funds from the Treasury at Kiyoto."

"Certainly," replied Taiko; "there is no objection whatever to such a measure. You had better have a full estimate of probable expenses made out, and take steps to supply any deficit from the chest in the Prime Minister's charge."

"Will Your Highness then," asked Ishida, "authorize the appointment of a special commission to examine the state of the Treasury at Kiyoto? The Prime Minister may perhaps have assumed that, with the palace, its money chests also were placed at his disposal, and indeed I have heard that His Excellency has disbursed considerable sums in largess and loans to needy persons. An unexpected application might therefore cause him some inconvenience. It might perhaps be advisable to order a private enquiry first, and let the result determine whether the money is to be obtained from Kiyoto, or drawn from the reserve funds here and at Osaka."

"There is not the least necessity for so much caution," answered the Regent smiling:—"The contents of the Treasury at the Palace of Pleasure belong to the nation, not to the person who happens to be living there, and it is more than improbable that Hidetsugu has in any way squandered or misappropriated them. If he considered it advisable to employ a part of them for any charitable object, there would have been no reason for concealment, and certainly either he or his monitors would have reported the matter to me. False suspicion is the gall of government. A private commission would be vexatious and unjust. As soon as you know the amount you require, send and take it at once from the palace."

Ishida bowed and made no attempt to reply, but Masuda, coming forward, said:—

Pardon me, Your Highness, if I seem to question your decision; but I scarcely think that during Your Highness' absence at Nagoya, the Prime Minister would have deemed it necessary to consult you about such a point as the appropriation of the Treasury funds, which, I humbly submit, he would naturally have regarded as entirely under his own control, inasmuch as he occupied Your Highness' position for the time being. I think with Sir Ishida that a sudden requisition would probably cause His Excellency great embarrassment, and might otherwise lead to very serious results, for I hear he has lent large sums to many of the nobles and bannerets, no doubt with the wise policy of securing their attachment. At the same time, if this has been done without Your Highness' knowledge, the world may construe it very unfavourably, so that under all the circumstances a secret enquiry seems desirable."

It might reasonably have been expected that the plain implication of treason embodied in this speech would have stirred the Regent to some immediate action, but either his confidence was not yet shaken, or his affection for Hidetsugu made belief difficult.

"If this be true," he said calmly, "Hidetsugu has committed a grave fault. But I cannot credit it without the clearest evidence, nor can I neglect it, coming from such a source. The Minister's monitors, however, will be the proper persons to question. A commission may be appointed for that purpose, but there need be no undue haste about its despatch. It will be as well to consult me again before any final steps are taken."

Unwelcome as this delay was, it gave Ishida no uneasiness. He was sure of his facts, the deficit at Fushimi and the defalcations at Kiyoto—and with these and the Lady Yodo on his

side, he saw but a very temporary obstacle in the Regent's reluctance.

But it happened that Iyeyasu, Duke of Musashi and Vice-Minister, had just then visited the capital in pursuance of a religious vow offered at the shrine of Tenjin. Already commanding those clear sources of information that afterwards flowed to him from the four corners of Japan in the days of his supreme power, the disbursements made by Hidetsugu to the nobility, and the appointment of a commission of enquiry at Ishida's instigation, were known to him even before the members of the commission had been elected. The germ of disturbance that these complications included, added to his own friendship for Hidetsugu, determined the Duke to interfere, and the day following the audience described above, he sent a messenger to Sir Kimura, informing him of his presence in Kiyoto, and explaining that business would prevent him from waiting at the Palace of Pleasure. If, however, he added, Sir Kimura could find time to pay him a visit that evening at the temple where he was lodging, it would give him great pleasure. Sir Kimura gladly complied with this invitation, and, attended by three or four vassals, repaired at sunset to the place indicated.

The sanctuary of Tenjin lay on the verge of the city, hidden in the bosom of a time-worn forest, where the low hum of the distant streets scarcely muffled the constant cooing of the ring-dove. Crossed midway by a massive stone portal, and flecked with the shadows of leaves that trembled overhead, and periapts that waved beside huge ewers of holy water, a long avenue of granite slabs led to the precincts of the "Pine and Plum Fane," in the most remote corner of which lay the home of the Tenjin cenobites.

Here in a little room, simple as the life of an ascetic, but opening into a restful glade of the many-foliaged forest, where spiders had spun from blade to spray, and foxes chased each other across bars of moonlight, through centuries on centuries of bygone summers, sat Iyeyasu, the divine law-giver and future Regent of Japan. He was then fifty-five years of age, but his square built and somewhat high shouldered figure showed no symptom of feebleness or infirmity. His head was perhaps disproportionately large, but nobly formed, and his face, while it almost awed by its profound and lofty expression, was softened by an air of the happiest and most attractive benevolence, so that a child might have chosen him as a confidant, of a greybeard as an adviser.

On Sir Kimura's arrival he was immediately shown into the Duke's presence, and for a time the conversation was entirely general. They spoke of the many changes Japan had undergone since the appointment of the first Lord High

* It is generally believed in Japan that Iyeyasu's sovereignty was the special gift of Amida Niyorai. His history is wrapped in myths and superstitions, which he probably fostered himself, for no man had more thoroughly gauged the bigoted temper of his times.

His grandfather, Kiyoyasu, dreamed one night that he grasped in his hand the character 是 (ze: reality). A priest of the Zenshu sect, pointing out that the character in question was built up of three others (日下人) signifying "the man under the sun," i.e. the first man in the empire, found in the vision an omen that Kiyoyasu, or some one of his descendants, should attain to supreme power in Japan.

It appears that the family of Tokugawa were particularly regular in their devotions at the shrine of Yakushi Niyorai, a god remarkable for his power of restoring or improving vision. In the temple of this deity were twelve wooden images, (Juni-doji), distinguished by the names of the twelve zodiacal signs, and representing Yakushi's attendant Genii. One of these, the "Tiger Satellite," disappeared mysteriously on the day of Takechiyo's (Iyeyasu) birth, and despite the most careful search, could never be found till the hour of Iyeyasu's death, when it suddenly reappeared in its old place. The inference is obvious.

Iyeyasu himself always carried in his bosom a miniature shrine, containing an image of Kuro Honzon (Amida Niyorai), to which he was in the habit of praying morning and evening. He never wore armour, but trusted entirely to divine tutelage, and although he was personally engaged in seventy three battles during his life, and eighteen times exposed to mortal peril, he always escaped unscathed. His supernal relations were finally established by the theophany of Kuro Honzon at the battle of Osaka. During the fight, the Tokugawa vassals observed a man dressed in black with a tanned head, who performed prodigies of valour and seemed invulnerable by blade or bullet. When this was repeated to Iyeyasu, he at first supposed the unknown to be Sanada, Earl of Idzu, but finding that Sanada was a hundred miles away at the time, he took out his pocket shrine, and opening it, saw that it contained only a pedestal and a nimbus. The figure of Honzon was gone, and the mystery of the sable warrior was explained.

F. B.

Constable, Yoritomo: the power of the nine Hojo dynasties; the troublous quiet of the Ashikaga rule; the victories of Taiko, which had at last made the country one from sea to sea, and the Korean campaign, that had diverted internecine fury into channels of national renown. "And now at last," said Sir Kimura, men may begin to ornament their bow-cases and scabbards, and draw their breaths after a cycle's struggle."

Iyeyasu shook his head. "You know the song Sir Kimura," he said:—

"Oh! when will man with man join hands,
And peace obtain for peace's sake?
When seas shall cease to sap their sands,
And winds forget the buds to shake."

"I fear me some tighter hand than has yet been tied, will be needed to stay these struggling elements. But the Minister," he continued after a pause: "I hope you will explain to him, Sir Kimura, that my own business alone would not have prevented me from waiting on him, but I know how little leisure his duties generally allow him, and how much it must be encroached upon now by preparations for the approaching audit of the finances."

"What audit does your Grace refer to?" demanded Sir Kimura.

"That which was ordered yesterday by the Regent," replied the Duke carelessly. "Perhaps I overestimate its importance since it occupies you so little."

"But, your Grace, we have had no intimation whatever of any such order."

"Indeed!" said the Duke. "And yet an unexpected examination of the Treasury might cause you some embarrassment, might it not?"

"Undoubtedly, your Grace. It would cause us the very greatest embarrassment," answered Sir Kimura, who felt no inclination to be reserved in the presence of Iyeyasu.

"If that be so, Sir Kimura," said the Duke, now speaking with evident intention, "although I am very sorry to forfeit the pleasure of your company, I think you would do well to place the Minister in possession of this information at once. A Commission has, I understand, been appointed to examine the state of the Treasury previous to the withdrawal of some funds required for the reception of the Chinese embassy. The order was, as I have said, given yesterday, and mere neglect can hardly have kept it concealed from the Minister so long."

Sir Kimura understood the importance of such a hint coming from the prudent Iyeyasu. Taking his leave immediately, he hastened to the palace, where he fortunately found his colleague, Sir Tajima, and the two men having obtained a private audience with the Minister, Sir Kimura reported the intelligence he had received from the Duke of Musashi, at the same time reminding Hidetsugu that the loans to the nobles had been made in opposition to his own and his colleague's advice. Their duty, he said, had prompted them to report the matter to the Regent, but the charitable motives of the act had restrained them, as well as the hope that the deficit might be made up from the palace revenues before any question arose. Scarcely two months previously all their credit had been required to obtain the Regent's indulgence, so that now, however, willing to intercede, they could not hope for success. "This, your Excellency," concluded Sir Kimura, "is a crisis far more important than that you have just escaped, for your Excellency's motives in lending the money admit of the grossest misrepresentation, and the Regent must already be partly prejudiced against you, or he would not have sanctioned an investigation without giving you notice. It only remains therefore to summon the nobles privately and desire them to refund the money at once. Even a report and explanation of the deficit could avail nothing now."

Sir Kimura spoke with the greatest earnestness, but his words did not awaken any answering sentiment in the Minister, for Hidetsugu had long anticipated this juncture, and the discovery that forfeited him the Regent's favour would, he believed, secure him a more than equivalent support elsewhere. The role of apparent self-sacrifice, too, where inaction played the part of innocence, and contempt, of courage, was, more than any other, congenial to his supine haughtiness, and for the rest, he was somewhat in the condition of one who prefers the actual leap from the precipice, to the giddy fancy of the swift fall and the mangling crash below.

"I will take no steps whatever to recover the money," he said. "As Prime Minister my right to dispose of it is unquestionable, and were the Treasury completely empty, I should still have nothing to answer for. Under any circumstances, the expenditure of the few thousands that are deficient is justified by its object. But," he continued with an agitation that made his words almost inarticulate, "since it is determined that I am not to be left in the quiet performance of the duties to which I have been appointed, and since my best intentions are wilfully misconstrued, I am resolved to stake my fate at once on the battle-field, rather than die slowly and ignominiously by the poison of slander and treachery."

It was come then, the moment these loyal men had so long feared. The end of all their services was destined to be mutiny, bloodshed and the traitor's doom. Eloquent advocates of right and fertile of wise expedients as they were, neither of the Monitors at first found a word to reply, for there are mental sicknesses before which the ablest bow in tacit acknowledgement of their own impuissance, seeing that the virus has penetrated far beyond the reach of reason.

When Sir Tajima at last spoke, his voice seemed to have assumed a hollow, perfunctory tone that chilled and confused his ideas. He no longer commanded the earnestness of devotion, but simply obeyed the impulse of duty.

"Your Excellency has then resolved," he said, "yourself to consummate the schemes that aim at your destruction, for your traducers' designs can scarcely reach farther than to drive you to an act of treason, the shadow of which will blacken all your past life no less than your memory, and verify the falsest of their scandals. And has your Excellency considered that you will be fighting against your own father, and that success can only be purchased by parricide? Surely the vengeance of heaven will be too lightly incurred by a little lack of patience!"

"Patience!" cried Hidetsugu passionately:—"I too could preach patience were I in your place. I, the puppet, who have been put up till it became more convenient to pull me down, and at whom seven generations will point the finger of scorn! I, whose bitter mortification will not suffer me to close my eyes even in death, and who am called on to sacrifice myself for the sake of filial obedience to one that destroys me because I am not his own son! And you," he continued, turning to Sir Kimura, "you, who urge me to humiliate myself by asking the nobles to return a loan that was well understood to be a gift; can you seriously suppose that these men who were poor enough to borrow, would be rich enough to repay at a moment's notice? Does not your advice somewhat resemble the action of those that watch their friends drowning from the bank and cry to them to beware of sinking?"

"The nobles can, and I firmly believe will, restore the sum at once if they are asked," replied Sir Kimura, without noticing Hidetsugu's unjust reproaches. "However little money there be in the country, enough will be forthcoming for such a purpose, and if your Excellency consents to make the trial, I will undertake, should it fail, to provide another means of averting this danger."

"What means do you speak of with so much confidence?" demanded the Minister.

"The Duke of Musashi's intercession, your Excellency. If this Grace gave this warning, it was because he wished your Excellency well, and he is not one to stop half way. I am persuaded that he will consent to use his great influence in your behalf if necessary."

Hidetsugu reflected a moment, and then to the Monitors' astonishment and great relief said:—

"I will follow your advice and assemble the nobles. But my interview with them must be entirely private. I wish at least to save them the mortification of publicity. If you return to your own houses, I will communicate the result to you there."

"But your Excellency," Sir Tajima remonstrated, "this is now a matter of life and death for us. The presence of your Excellency's Monitors could not possibly embarrass anyone, and might perhaps be useful."

"Nevertheless," replied the Minister, "in such a delicate matter as this, one cannot be too careful. The loans were made privately, and I have no right to take anybody whatever into my confidence."

No arguments could upset this resolution. It evidently had its origin in some sentiment stronger than mere punctiliousness, and unwelcome as the idea was, the Monitors were

constrained to believe that this convocation of the nobles was a consequence of Hi-letsugu's own design, rather than a concession to their remonstrances. They had no choice, however, but to await the result with what patience they might, for the Minister, by his seeming docility, had prevented any further interference.

Little by little, these chivalrous men were drifting into that darkness where fidelity and defection cease to be distinguishable.—(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

GOVERNMENTAL SUBSIDIES TO TRADE.

(From the *Choya Shimbun*.)

OUR Government, since the reformation, industriously and briskly striving to originate profitable industries in the country is like an overflowing water and flaming fire in vigour.

In ancient times, Peter the Great, the Emperor of Russia, civilized his countrymen with excellent wisdom, and in the course of a few years the radiance of the country shone all over the continent of Europe; and Napoleon, a few years after, ascending the throne of France, reformed all the political laws, and although the country was then in a state of excitement and disquietude, the noise of the trumpets and drums ringing in all directions, and thus there was a great deal of business relating to war to be attended to, also devoted himself, in company with celebrated learned men, in reforming the other laws of the country. The industry and anxiety of these two Emperors in promoting the prosperity of their countries, is up to the present date praised by historians. But the industry and anxiety of our present Government is not, it appears, less than those of the two Emperors referred to.

Overcoming difficulties and enduring trouble, originating what is difficult to originate and conducting what is difficult to conduct, doing all this for the advantage of the people, and doing it rapidly and diligently, this is this principal action of our 'Meiji' Government of which the public are already aware. And the Government being so anxious to originate profitable business for country and people, cannot be satisfied with only doing so in its control of affairs. Therefore, if there be any one of our countrymen who originates an extensive business, the object of which is not to profit himself only, Government expresses great delight and protects him with all its heart; and if he has not sufficient capital, it lends him a large sum of money, or gives a certain sum annually. Ah, how can the Government be so kind as this! From what we ourselves know, the number of those who have received such favours from the Government since its reformation is not only two or three. That Yamashiroya Wanke, who committed suicide in the compound of the War Department, owed to that Department, an enormous sum of money, is very well known to the public; the steamship company, whose flags are hoisted on staffs high up in the air in the three cities and five ports and whose steamers are running in all directions, receives the enormous sum of 250,000, *yen* annually, the *Chôyôkuan* which is celebrated all over the country as giving profit to the country by the manufacture of indigo, has already borrowed a sum of 500,000 *yen* from the Government; the business of Mr. Kasano, the manager of the *Kôgiyô Kaisha* was started with the 400,000 *yen* sent out from the treasury of the Financial Department; the mining business of Mr. Goto the proprietor of the Takashima coal mines, is also conducted by the several thousands of *yen* kindly lent by the Government; the *Kôshô Kaisha* with the sum of 80,000 *yen*, the *Shindzuisha*, with 40,000 *yen*; and we also hear that the *Bokuchiku Kaisha* at Hachinoye in the province of Mutsu, has succeeded in borrowing several thousand of *yen* from the Government. And besides these, if we count those who have been favoured by the Government by lending 1,000 or more *yen* in the whole country, their total number would be so great, that it is beyond our knowledge how many millions of *yen* would be the total amount paid out from the Financial Department for this purpose. But where is the fruit of the Government's spending such an enormous sum of

money and assisting the private companies? If these private companies, while obeying and fulfilling the objects of the Government and industriously and painstakingly conducting their business, were always much afraid of being unsuccessful, we should not conclude that the money so kindly lent or given is of no service.

But the question as to whether those managers who have been specially favoured by the Government will all succeed in business and fulfil the wishes of the Government or not, we cannot as yet heedlessly reply to.

The prosperity of mercantile and manufacturing business is the fruit of activity and industry, and activity and industry are the result of men emulating each other and this is to be caused only by their seeking for future happiness. But if one who originates an extensive business be favoured by Government lending him several thousands of *yen* and another who invents a good production be rewarded with special kindness, the minds of these originators are quite satisfied with this assistance and thus their spirits of emulating each other would be more or less decreased, for none can fail. This is not alleged as a crime against the parties, but it may not be much to say that it is caused by the error of the Government's guiding them in such directions. Indeed the Government, in order to originate profitable occupations in the country should direct its attention to general affairs only and should protect and guide the public equally. Unless this is done, it is uncertain whether what was intended to result in profit, may not end in loss.

GOVERNMENTAL SUBSIDIES:—THE MITSUBISHI COMPANY.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

A WRITER has lately discussed the question of our Government's striving to originate profitable enterprises in the country and argues the point of its lending or giving a large amount of money to the people, leaving the questions unanswered:—"as to whether those who received such favour and assistance from the Government, would succeed in their business and fulfil the wishes of the Government or not, and whether such favour and special help would result in making the originators too satisfied with themselves and thus decrease the spirit of emulation?" This is an opinion unfavourable to giving money assistance and may be a good one, as coming from a patriotic mind. The question as to the advantages and disadvantages of the Government's giving or lending a large amount of money to the people as an assistance, is continually being argued by learned men in Europe and America and although the argument has not yet come to a conclusion, the majority of opinion seems to be unfavourable to the practice. The opinion of the writer mentioned before being the same as that of the majority, and as we have so often discussed the subject, it does not seem necessary to argue the matter again.

As, however, the writer treats such Companies as the Mitsubishi, Chôyô, Tankô, Kôshô, Shindzu, Bokuchiku, &c. which have received money assistance from the Government, as equal examples, and does not distinguish the reasons of their receiving such assistance from the Government, the public may jump to the conclusion that all these Companies are in equal relationship to the Government. We will therefore take one Company which has special and distinct reasons for Government assistance, and explain how its relation with the Government is vastly different to that of the other companies mentioned before.

The relation between the Government and the Mitsubishi M. S. S. Co., is very different from that between any other Company protected by Government. The Company receives an amount of 250,000 *yen* per annum from the Government, which is not a loan, but is to be given to the Company for a term of fifteen years under an agreement made with the Government, and this subsidy is not to be returned to the Government. Upon this point only, the Company differs from all others receiving money from the Government, and the reasons it receives a subsidy are also different. We will give as an example, an account of the relations between the Government and the mail steam ship companies in the countries of Europe and America.

The P. & O. Company receives an amount of £400,000 yearly from the British Government, for conveying mails

* The Editor of the *Choya Shimbun* is misinformed here. The cost of purchase and working of the Takashima mine has been furnished entirely by a single English firm.

to and fro; in receiving this amount the Company has to execute its obligations towards the Government and notwithstanding any loss that might happen to the Company, it has to despatch steamers from one place to another at the orders of the Government. The P. M. Company at first received a yearly amount of \$500,000, next \$1,000,000 and again \$500,000, (although the terms of the contract have now expired and a renewal is under consideration). The reason that the Government gave these amounts of money was because the Company sustains more or less loss from the Government's business, and thus the Government makes good the loss. The French M. M. Company also receives a subsidy from the Government, although we do not exactly know whether the yearly amount is calculated from that of the loss of the Company through Government service (this was the system before) or if it is a fixed amount; its obligations towards the Government are very great, such as being liable for any kind of Government service in war time.

The reason of our Government's giving 250,000 yen to the Mitsu Bishi Company is the same as above. Our Government some time ago gave a subsidy to the P. M. Company for the purposes of the mail service on the Shanghai line; this line having been taken over by the M. B. M. Co. was the cause of the Government's giving a subsidy to the latter Company. Indeed it is simply giving to the M. B. M. Co. what has been given to the P. M. Co. (although the amount may be different, the principle is the same.) We are told that the service on the Shanghai line is not a profitable one to the Company at present, and that it sustains more or less loss thereby, but as this service is an indispensable necessity of the Government, it, in order to make good the loss and to make the Company be under the obligation to navigate under its orders, notwithstanding its loss, gives an amount of 250,000 yen every year. This is what is called the subsidy which fills up the insufficiency, and pays for the obligation. From what we hear, although the traffic on the Hakodate, Osaka and Yokkaichi lines is more or less profitable, that on the other lines sometimes loses. But that the Company is unable to discontinue, but must regularly despatch its steamers, by the obligation imposed by the subsidy; that is, in short, the Government purchases this obligation with money, and its paying this money is, we believe, chiefly for the purpose of maintaining the service on the Shanghai line. Now if we consider the question above argued, it would appear that the Mail Ship Company's receipt of the subsidy from the Government is in a different condition from the protection given to any other Companies by the Government. Should it be really so, the public cannot look upon the Mitsu Bishi Co. as the same as other companies and must argue the matter of the Government's giving a subsidy, and the Company's receiving it, also in a different way. This is why we are led to explain the special nature of the M. B. Co.; that is, to distinguish it from the other Companies and thus place the matter as a question of argument properly before the public.

EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVE CAPITAL IN JAPAN.

(From the 'Chingai Bukka Shimpô'.)

ALTHOUGH the modes of employing capital are more than one, the most important are only two: that which increases and that which does not increase production. The employment of capital, by which production is increased, is called by Western nations 'productive' and that which does not increase is called 'unproductive,' and to these they give their utmost care and attention. What mode of employment is called productive? To employ capital for developing mines, which produce gold, silver, copper, iron, &c., for cultivating land for gardens and pastures and to raise corn and cattle; for making roads, laying railroads, building lighthouses, erecting telegraphs and other such like establishments and manufactures which increase production, these are called 'productive' and that, on the contrary, other methods are called unproductive. Indeed a country's advancing in prosperity or falling into decay depends entirely upon the skillfulness and unskillfulness of the people in employing their capital.

* This statement requires the explanation that by 'orders of the Government' are meant the permanent arrangements for regular despatch of mails: the Company's steamers cannot under their subsidy contract be diverted in any other direction.

The most foolish of the actions, up to now, of the rich men who are the repositories of wealth in our country, is that they hoard the money with all their heart, and never circulate it among the public, nor attempt to make any increase thereof. We hear that a rich merchant in Osaka has, until lately, been actually hoarding more than 800,000 yen without employing it. Fortunately, however, in late years, there being the Government bonds and the bank shareholder guilds, &c., they, taking out the money which they had previously hoarded more than masters or parents, have purchased these and getting a certain interest, are now assisting indirectly the circulation of money among the public. That such a custom as hoarding money in jars or burying it in the earth has gone by, and that such men as the rich merchant in Osaka above mentioned, are gradually decreasing in numbers, may be called an advancement of one step. But there is yet a point which we must still strongly argue.

The rich people of our country do not seem to pay any attention as to the 'productive' and 'unproductive' employment of capital. Although they get certain interest annually from Government bonds, if we argue from the appearance of the whole face of the country, this does not increase production. And if we turn our attention to the object of the money-lenders, we observe that they, in lending, do not mind for what purpose the money is required, so long as they get sufficient security and moderate interest; but if it is for the purpose of establishing factories, &c. as above described, about eight or nine out of ten capitalists as a rule, refuse their assistance. Now, if the rich, who are the origin of wealth, were all like this, when would works and factories be established in our country? Look at the countries of Europe and America. Everything profitable, such as railways, telegraphs, mining and machinery making has been established. Where has the money for these works come from? They are not under the control of the Government, nor established by the money accumulated by the workmen. But they result from the rich having paid out large sums of money and assisted the workmen at their own risk. Indeed those in Europe and America who employ their capital, seem to be ashamed to lend money unless for the purposes of increasing production. If we say so, the rich men among the public would doubtless say that "although our argument, taking the Western countries as an example, may be reasonable, we can not agree to it, because, for instance, if we look at the results of the mercantile companies and manufacturing hitherto established in our country, those which are prospering are but very few, whilst most of them have failed, and if we agree with your opinion and lend out our money to such, we few shall all be ruined." It would not be so. The companies and factories recently established in our country being started by men unaccustomed to their business and work, (indeed being mostly a sort of experiment and study,) they could not of course obtain any moderate profit, and sometimes speculators have deceived the public in such a way, that it has finally come to be, that those who attempt to establish any factory or company and thereby to increase production are called by the name of 'speculators,' and disliked or taken no notice of. The blame of this should not fall on such businesses being newly established, but simply on account of the inexperience and carelessness of the projectors. That our country is rich in natural production and that profit may be got from the mountains and seas, both foreigners and natives are well aware of, and science and practical works have gradually advanced and we have already gained in some measure, experience and practice; and we firmly believe that future projectors would not be so heedless as hitherto. Thus what we earnestly desire of the rich now, is that, should there be one who with a firm foundation, proposes to make profits, they shall not, as before, say that such works are dangerous, business is liable to loss and thus they can not pay out the money &c., but that they should lend their aid to stimulate production.

EXTRACTS.

TEA PLANTING IN THE STRAITS.

MR. WALTER KNAGGS, a planter of Province Wellesley, and whose name may not be unknown to our readers in connection with the agricultural resources of Perak, has addressed a

very interesting communication to the *Penang Gazette* respecting the prospects of Tea and Coffee planting in the Straits. "I was asked," writes Mr. Knaggs, "a long time ago, to put my ideas upon the prospects of Tea Cultivation on paper for the benefit of the public, and I cheerfully did so to the best of my ability, and in conformity with such experience as I had gained up to that time. I did not, then, assume to know much about tea, as I had but recently arrived in the Colony, and never saw a tea plant until I came in 1873. I then found that about ten acres of tea had been previously successfully established on the Estate, of which I had come to take charge, by my predecessor, Mr. de Mornay; and seeing its promising appearance, and guided, in great measure, by the opinions of others who had been on Tea Estates in India (some of them old planters), I made up my mind to extend the cultivation as energetically as the means at my command would permit. I was not, however, able to begin planting out until late in the year 1874; and it must be borne in mind that the Tea requires to mature for three years before it can yield a remunerative crop. My connection with the Estate in question has ceased; but I left about one hundred and fifty acres established and only requiring pruning to be ready for picking, and about one hundred acres of young tea which I planted during the fall of last year.

Eminent planters from India have visited and reported, most favourably, on the cultivation; and they have further expressed their surprise at the promising results that had been attained without any previous knowledge or experience—and further, their confidence in our prospects—as they say that the plantation will compare very favorably with many of those in India. My own confidence in the prospects of Tea cultivation in the Straits is undiminished, the more especially as I have introduced a plan by which it may be planted, jointly with another article of Colonial produce, which, being gathered at the end of 18 months, will leave the tea established for nothing! This plan I have already tested, and I find it to answer completely.

The Malay Peninsula, from the Province to Singapore, contains millions of acres of low, undulating, thickly wooded hills. These are Tea lands; and the soil of which they are composed tallies with the description that I have read of many of the most favourable tea soils in India. The variety to be planted must be the indigenous Assam and no other. With cheap land and plentiful labor, regular seasons, and easy transport—all of which we have here—I think that we possess advantages unequalled elsewhere; and I hope soon to see this cultivation largely extended. In fact I see no other permanent cultivation suitable for the lands in question but that of tea or coffee. Tea, however, has been made on the Estate which has realised in the home market the price of that of Assam, and which has been declared equal to it in every respect; but anticipating the great demand for seed which will probably arise, the trees are now being cultivated for that purpose; as it is not advisable to take leaves and seeds from the plant at the same time."

This would seem to be conclusive that Tea can be grown in the Peninsula. Mr. Knaggs is a planter of experience, and although he may be perhaps a little sanguine, he has actually succeeded in growing tea and his opinions are endorsed by others, eminent planters from India, and also by two of our own officials, the late Mr. Birch and the present Colonial Secretary, whose knowledge of planting in Ceylon ought to have qualified them to judge. It is interesting to note that the coffee-planters of Ceylon have been turning their attention to tea cultivation, stimulated by the great success of the tea planters in Assam and other parts of India. The following table shows the progress made in Ceylon during the last five years:—

Exports of Ceylon-grown Tea:—

Year.	Ceylon produce. lb.	Customs value.
1873	23	58 R.
1874	493	1,903
1875	1,438	2,402.50
1876	757	1,907
1877	2,105	—

It will be seen that the progress has been but slow. The *Ceylon Observer*, however, says that there are now over 2,000 acres planted in Ceylon, half of them two years old and upwards, and that at least 100,000 lbs. of tea may be expected to be prepared during 1878. One of the Ceylon planters, indeed, has so much faith in the adaptation of the tea plant to the Ceylon soil and climate, at any elevation from sea level to 7,000 feet, that he believes there will be as much tea planted in the island at the end of ten years as coffee. The success of the Ceylon planters should be an encouragement to enterprise in the Straits. Mr. KNAGGS may be said to have demonstrated that tea can be grown beautifully in the Peninsula, and indeed, for that matter, there seems every reason

to believe that it might be grown in the island of Singapore, if it were set about properly. The soil of Singapore may be said to have been, until recently, very much under-rated, but it has been now demonstrated that not only Pepper, Tapioca and Sugar, can be grown upon it and made to pay handsomely, and why should not Tea, which is a hardy plant. At all events, there is no question about the Peninsula, and we apprehend that the great and real difficulty will be, not as to the growth of the plants, but as to the proper preparation of the leaf. This is the difficulty in India and it is discussed as follows in a report on the tea plantations in the Neilgherries:—

"The manipulation and curing of the leaf is the most difficult part of the tea planter's work, and the value of the manufactured tea altogether depends upon the skill and care with which this is performed. It matters not that the leaf may have been produced under the most favorable conditions of climate, soil, and manure, if the curing is defective. The great drawback to the general consumption of Neilgherry teas is their varying character, each plantation and garden producing different samples and qualities; they are thus to a great extent kept out of the wholesale market. If the tea planters, instead of each attempting to cure the leaf he produces, would raise the capital amongst themselves for establishing in each centre of tea cultivation large well equipped factories in which the leaf of the district could be properly cured under skilled direction, they would be able to produce a tea of an uniform sample and quality, which could be sent in quantity into the wholesale market where it would take a definite position. One such factory could be worked at far less expense than the ten or a dozen small tea curing houses which it would displace; and under good management there would seldom be any more difficulty in conveying the fresh leaf to the factory than is now experienced in carrying it to the present curing houses."—(*Straits Times*.)

SPORT IN THE PENINSULA.

[If Mr. Martin Neil is not 'pulling this Editor's leg' sport in Malaya must be better than in Japan. A pig and two tigers is a very fair morning's work.]

To the Editor of the Daily Times.

SIR.—As an account of a morning's sport in the jungle may not be uninteresting to you, allow me to give you the following, which happened many years ago at P-h-g, one of the adjacent Malayan territories. I was a solitary European at P-h-g, and to amuse myself, used to take a great delight in going out at 5 a.m., or day-break, accompanied by my dogs, carrying along with me a double-barreled rifle—one of Jacob's, which, of course, was used against any wild beast that I might chance to come across during my morning ramble. Well, this morning, as usual, I started all complete, dogs, servants, &c., and had not gone half a mile from the *palais royal* of my quarters, when there was a stir among my four-footed companions; and all at once they made a sudden rush upon a very large wild boar, who was about 20 yards ahead, standing with bristles erect, and evidently shewing signs of having made up his mind to fight. Seeing how he restless stood, I allowed my dogs to rush the boar, and so as to divert his attention, ordered one of my men to throw a spear at him, as I wished to make the beast run, so as to afford a little better sport for all. No sooner said than done; away go half a dozen spears; and off goes Mr. Wild Boar, one spear having slightly touched him on the raw. Now came the fun; off go the dogs in full career, barking and yelping as only Malay pariah dogs can do; besides, in close chase behind—myself included—enjoying the sport and the fine morning breeze. After about 300 yards of a good fair run, Mr. Porker came to a stand-still on the banks of a stream which interfered *pro tem* with his further running; and perhaps the exercise having got his dander up, he may have thought that he might venture upon having a tussle with his canine foes; so the attack soon commenced, and he had not long to wait, when the dogs were all on to him *en masse*, and certainly kept his muscular powers in full play. On my approaching, the poor persecuted porker took it into his head that, I suppose, he was not getting exactly fair play, so he turned from the dogs, faced the stream, jumped in, and made off for the other side of Jordan, canine tribe following close up. As the stream was a shallow one, and only some 20 yards broad, we were all soon on the other side, also another bit of a run, and another determined stand made by the persecuted "unclean;" this time he was really waxy, and so were the dogs; the consequence of which was that two of them got rather roughly handled—one had his eye gouged out, and another a severe gash in his stomach. Thinking 'twas time to put an end to the fray, as I did not like to see my four-footed friends getting the worst of it, I walked up and pistolled "Mr. Porker," leaving him there, of course, as the Malays, though they will kill wild pig, don't eat them.

I then went sauntering on, calling off the dogs, as I was not far away from a spot where some deer had lately been seen, and it being only now about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 A.M. I might still come upon them, feeding outside, in the belt of the jungle. I had not however proceeded very far, when all my dogs at once came helter skelter back from all points, and running towards me with their hair all bristling up, and their tails not exactly erect. Wondering what the matter could be, I of course came to a stand still, my followers doing the same; so putting my fore finger to my lip, as a sign to my biped followers to keep quiet, which hint they understood, I awaited patiently to see what the beast was—a deer or another pig, or a porcupine, monkey, or what; when suddenly I felt a hand put on to my shoulder, for the purpose of attracting my attention to a certain spot where the rustling noise I had heard came from. On watching intently, my eyes were pleasantly rewarded by seeing a full grown tiger coming quietly along—evidently aware, from the manner of his progression, that there were either enemies or food for him close at hand—he having no doubt by this time got a snuff of the canine gentry, who were all stretched on the grass, ears erect, noses twittering, and eyes looking all round the compass.

The tiger came gradually on at a snail's pace, scarcely making any noise—; within ten yards of me, I thought it was time to startle him, so from behind the fallen trunk of the dead tree, I made a slight hissing noise like that of a serpent going quickly along grass—when Mr. Tiger suddenly came to a full stop; and stood upright; just as he did so, I let fly the contents of my right barrel; and landed same on his throat, cutting the wind pipe. The beast on receiving the ball gave one roar—sprung some ten feet up in the air, and fell on his back a quivering corpse. I however did not go up to the animal just then, but reloaded my piece; and, whilst doing so, I heard another roar, which rather startled me, as it proceeded from another quarter. However, being now reloaded, I waited patiently, as it was evident the last roar must have come from the male of the one lying dead close to me. I was not long however kept in suspense, as presently there was another roar; and this time quite close—a few minutes more, and the animal in question came in view, emerging from close behind where the dead brute lay. On coming close to his companion, the beast stood stock still—scented and sniffed all round, and commenced to look wildly all about. As it was evident he was taken aback at what he saw, and did not look in the best of humour, as I could see from the slight and sudden twitching of his tail, I thought it was time to make him acquainted with my presence, and a favourable side shot offering, I fired at his near fore shoulder, which was towards me, and tumbled him over. The ball went crashing in, and broke his shoulder blade, but he was not however settled so easily and managed to get up, and made an attempt at a spring, but could not fortunately manage it, and before he could recover himself, I had planted another ball in his other shoulder, which told, and laid him also a corpse within eight yards of the first beast, dead.

I need not say that my return to the *palais royal* at about 8 A.M., was anything but a quiet one, and the old Rajah who was a confirmed opium smoker and at that hour always asleep, was even roused out by the hubbub, but in the excitement forgot to order any one to be executed for disturbing him. Many other adventures as well as hair breadth escapes I have had, and if a few of them will amuse you, I can send you the accounts of the same. Meantime—Adieu.

Yours, &c.,

LIEN NITRAM EMERAL.

Singapore, 21st February, 1878.

BOMBAY COFFEE-HOUSE POLITICIANS ON THE WAR.

IT was drawing towards the small hours of the morning as a small party of the "Faithful" sat smoking their hookahs in one of the best known of the many coffee-shops which exist in and about Bhendry Bazaar. The pleasures of the "water-pipe" and the tiny bowls of *café-noir* did not prevent the free flow of conversation, which on this occasion—as, indeed, on most when men assemble together to sit, smoke, and drink—dwelt principally upon the political topics of the day.

"It is written," quoth the senior member of the party, old Nubbee-buksh, "it is written that when *kinat* approaches and the end of the world is coming, that at that time signs will be given to man, and one sign is that Stamboul (Constantinople) shall be taken by 70,000 of the posterity of Isaac, and there will be war with the Greeks. Now, we hear that the Russians are close to Constantinople. What then, do they come from Isaac?" Here the old fellow paused and looked around for the meed of applause which he thought his brief speech deserved, but not receiving it, he continued. "If the Russians have 70,000 men, that is nothing, they cannot take Constantinople."

"That may be true," said Hajee Yosuf, an Arab who had travelled much and had but little regard for the *Meahs*, or Indian

Moslems. "That may be true, but the Russians have taken the whole of *Roum* (Turkey); the Sultan has only a few men and Russia has many."

"And whose fault is that?" queried Mirza Ali, a Persian of nondescript character.

"Whose fault?" retorted Nubbee-buksh. "It is the fault of the English; they should have helped the Sultan."

"Pshaw! What could the English do?" asked the Hajee. "Who are the English? Kafirs, infidels. If the Sultan had money enough, he might easily have got assistance from the English by paying for it, but what better are they than anyone else."

"Yes," said Cassim Mahomed, a Bombay Memon, "but the English gave help to the Sultan before and why don't they do it now?"

"God knows," said the Persian laconically.

"The English are afraid of Russia," suggested Nubbee-buksh.

"What is England to Russia? Besides, Germany is siding with Russia, and England is afraid of Germany too."

"That can't be true," said Cassim, "because the telegram said the other day that the French and Italians had promised to help England if she went to war for Turkey."

"But whose fault is it that the English didn't help Turkey?" ejaculated the Persian. "Why, the *padres* and Mister Gladstone's. The English Government and the Ranees (the Queen) wanted to help the Turks and the *padres* wouldn't let them."

"And why didn't the Shah help Turkey?" asked the Arab sarcastically.

"Why did the Sultan refuse to help the Shah before, and tell him he thought the Russians were better than the Persians, and that the Persians were no Mahomedans," retorted the Persian fiercely.

"Bus, bus, bus," cried old Nubbee-buksh, "let us not fight among ourselves; besides, the war is over now, the Sultan is going to make a *bunderbust* with Russia, and there will be peace."

"Yes," said Cassim, "but suppose they can't make a *bunderbust*. Suppose Russia wants too much and the Sultan won't give it, what then? The Sultan has got no army now to go on fighting, and what is he to do?"

"I'll tell you," said Nubbee-buksh. "Everyone knows that the Sultan is the head of Islam, and do you think we are going to see him beaten; no. If the Sultan falls, Islam falls; but God is great and merciful; and if there is no peace, then every Moslem must lift the sword and fight for his religion. Look in the Holy Book, in the *Heedis*, and read the history of Islam. Have you not all learned of the battle of Beder, and think you that God will forsake the armies of Islam now? If there is no peace now, then every Moslem must rise up and go and fight for his religion."

"True," said the Arab, "if there is more fighting, then every Moslem must go forth and fight, for he who will not is no Moslem but a kafir."

"But England will help" retorted Cassim.

"Pho! We want no infidels to fight for Islam," said the Arab.

"England won't fight" commented the Persian. "She doesn't want to fight; and, what's more, the *Siecar* won't let anyone go from India to fight against Russia."

"Won't let anyone go from India! Ma—shallah!" cried the Arab, "then they must fight in India."

"Phah," quoth the Mirza, "fight like they did before."

Here a break occurred in the conversation, during which the merry hubbub-bubble of the hookahs was distinctly audible, as was the long "isp" which old Nubbee-buksh made as he imbibed a cup of coffee and the satisfied smack with which his lips met as he removed the cup.

"Russia is a great nation," said Cassim after some time in a cogitating voice, as though speaking to himself.

"Wah! Wah!" retorted Nubbee-buksh contemptuously. "Wah! Wah! What sort of a great extent of territory?"

"Half the world," interposed the Persian.

"And they say true," continued old Nubbee-buksh not heeding the interruption, "who say that Russia has a large army."

"Large army," ejaculated the man from Iran. "Large army, indeed; why she has twenty armies, and when they are all killed and gone to *gehennam*, she has twenty more, ay, and twenty more again!"

"Perhaps," said Nubbee-buksh, "but I was going to say what is a great country and a great many soldiers when the raj is all *zu'um* and *zubbuchudee*? Besides, everyone knows Russia is a bad nation—they are bad people, they have bad laws, their country is a bad one, and their religion is the worst of all. I was reading a telegram—"

"Pho!" said the Arab, "the telegrams are all lies. I don't believe a word of them!"

"You are a wise man," said Nubbee, "but in truth some of the telegrams must be true;" at any rate if the telegrams aren't true, there is nothing else to believe. But the telegram I was reading was dated from Constantinople and—"

"It's my opinion," interrupted the Persian, "that, may-be, after all, England will go to war."

"That would be very good for the Sultan," said Cassim, "and besides," he added after a pause, "it would be very good for trade. For I'm sure they would send troops from India and then we would make plenty of money in Bombay as we did in the Abyssinian war time."

"Yes," said Nubbee, "I was reading a telegram—"

"Well, after all is said," began the Persian, once more interrupting old Nubbee-buksh in his attempt to repeat the telegram he had been reading, "after all is said, what has the war got to do with us here in Bombay?"

This heretical suggestion well nigh drove the Arab to extremities but being rather a stranger in Bombay, and the Persian being much larger than himself, he moderated his zeal and retorted, "the Sultan is the head of Islam, and the book says we must fight for him. Don't you pray for him every Friday in your mosques?" "No, we don't," replied the Persian sturdily.

The Arab frowned and scowled and muttered something about kafirs and dogs and pigs; other countries and other places and breaking of heads, and old Nubbee-buksh seized the opportunity to disburthen his mind of the telegram which seemed to lie somewhat heavy on his conscience.

"As I was saying," he began, "I was reading a telegram the—"

"One of the last telegrams," Cassim treating old Nubbee with indifference, "says that the English had ordered troops to be landed at Gallipoli, and another that the fleet had been sent to Besika Bay. Now that looks as if the English were going to fight."

"So it does," said Nubbee, "and I was reading a—"

"Boeh," quoth the Persian, "the fleet has been at Besika Bay from the first; and as to the troops at Gallipoli who knows whether the telegram is true or not; may be it's a telegram from Bhendy Bazaar."

"Well," said Cassim, "may be it's true, may be it's not, but at any rate we'll soon know the truth, and whatever occurs—it's *hissat*."

"True," said the Arab, "God is great, and everything must go according to *naseeb*; so after all there is nothing to fear."

"Praise be to God," cried old Nubbee turning up his eyes, "thy words are true, and as I was telling you I read a telegram the other day about the war, and it said"—here he paused, smoked his hookah reflectively, and resumed "the telegram I was reading said that—Mahmood, one more cup of coffee—he continued interrupting himself—"the telegram I was reading was from Constantinople, and so it must have been true, and it said that—"

Here Mahmood handed him his cup of coffee, which he swallowed with three or four long "isps," with great satisfaction, and then applied himself to his hookah with renewed vigour.

"Well," cried the Persian testily, "what *did* the telegram you were reading say, it's getting late and time to be going home, come, tell us at once, or not at all."

"In truth, then," said old Nubbee-buksh, finding himself pushed into a corner, "I have forgotten what the telegram said, but I think myself it must have been true, because it came from Stamboul."

THE JAPAN TIMES, A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

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Currency Quacks and the Silver Bill, (from the *North American Review*)

The Rev. Sydney Smith's Petition to Congress, 1843. The Barbour Case.

Professions and Trade Directory. The Housekeeper, Mail Steamers Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. &c. Advertisements.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22nd 1878.

IMPORTS—During the first three days of our week, the same demand for Yarns which was the principal feature in last week's report, continued, the bulk of the operations being 'to arrive,' but a fair amount of business being done for delivery in the usual short terms. But the paper currency again showing signs of weakness, native merchants have been compelled to hold their hands and, during the latter half of the week hardly any business has been done, and at the close we have to report on the whole our Import market as decidedly dull. No other goods but Yarn calls for any general remark, and our mercantile friends will find the record of the week's transactions in any special article in which they are interested, in our table of quotations.

EXPORTS—**SILK**. We were able to report, in our last, a rising market and a fair amount of transactions, for this time of year. During the first half of the week at present under review, the same activity was to be remarked and about 500 bales were settled at a still further advance of \$10 to \$15 per picul on our last quotations. But, during the last two or three days, the depressing news from Europe, which appear to indicate that war is hardly to be avoided, have made a decided change: operations have ceased, a good deal of the silk under inspection has been returned on sellers' hands, and prices have receded to at least our last quotations, at which the market closes very weak; natives being now eager to sell, but without finding purchasers for their goods. We leave our last week's quotations, therefore, as they stood, but they must be taken as more or less nominal.

Total shipments to date are 19,993 Bales and stocks about 1,800 native.

TEA—We have still nothing of the least importance to note: the only business doing is the execution of very small special orders, which are very difficult to fill: to get even ten piculs of any particular class of leaf being almost impossible. In other columns of this Review we have referred to the impending experiment in manufacturing Black Teas which natives seem determined to make, and we have nothing more to say, here, upon the subject. For the few hundred pounds bought it is not worth while to change the quotations at which we left the market when it virtually closed, and the two or three firms interested in the minute transactions now taking place can furnish their special quotations themselves.

EXCHANGE—There has been but little change in quotations for sterling Bills, during the past week: six months' Bank paper has been steady at 3s. 11½d. with fair demand, but sight bills have advanced an eighth on our last week's closing rates. Some remitters who have been holding out for 4s. 0d. finding the Banks firm have, we hear, been sending their money home through New York at 94½, but transactions of this character have not been of any very great extent. 94½ was obtained late this afternoon.

Private credits and documentary paper have been taken to a moderate extent at a trifle easier rate.

On Shanghai, transactions have been limited, without change. Rates on Hongkong close firm at 1½ disc. for Bank, and 1½ for ten days' sight Private.

On New York and San Francisco a fair amount of Bank paper has been taken at our quoted rate.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d., sight 3s. 11d. Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0d., Documents 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d., Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 5.00 sight 4.91½. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.05. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 73. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 1½ o/o disc. Private, 10 days' sight 1½ o/o disc. San Francisco Bank sight 94½. New York Bank, sight 94½. **BULLION**. Gold Yen 390, Kinsatsu 442.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 18	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March. 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the *Belgic O. & O. S. S.* sailing 22nd March.* To connect with the *P. M. S. S. City of Tokio* sailing April 4th.

••• The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

••• No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

••• Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

••• Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 22
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	" 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 22
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 3	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 3
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THESE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THESE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Mar. 20	Mar. 28		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Mar. 27	Apr. 4	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Feb. 15	Apr. 6		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Apr. 2	May 20	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 8	Mar. 31		M. M. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 26	" 13	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Mar. 4			P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Apr. 5		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco				O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco			

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNERS.
Mar. 17	Seirio Maru	Frahn	Jap. str.	486	Bonin Islands		Government's service	M. B. M. Co.
" 17	Fire Queen	Hamilton	Brit. barq.	769	Hakodate	Mar. 12	Ice	E. B. Watson.
" 18	Gaelic	Kidley	Brit. str.	2,756	San Francisco	Feb. 21	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 18	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,300	Kobe	Mar. 16	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 19	Succes	Ollivaud	Frch. barq.	363	Newcastle N.S.W.	Jan. 16	Coal	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 19	Adeline Marianne	Dahl	Ger. barq.	300	Takao	Mar. 5	Sugar	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 19	Jotun	Hauff	Norw. ship	885	Newcastle N.S.W.	Jan. 20	Coal	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 20	Juno	Poland	Brit. man of war	2,216	Shanghai	Mar. 15		
" 21	Belgie	Meyer	Brit. str.	2,627	Hongkong	" 13	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 21	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai & ports	" 13	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 22	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	" 19	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 22	Sunda	Reeves	Brit. str.	1,704	Hongkong	" 14	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Seirio Maru* from the Bonin Islands:—Messrs. E. M. Satow, F. V. Dickins, H. Pryer, G. K. Dinsdale, Captain Blackiston, and Mr. Obana.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* from San Francisco:—Messrs. G. T. Marsh, and Dominique D'Ozet; and 164 Chinese.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Rev. Bishop Wiley, Messrs. G. P. Helland, Da Roza, L. Kniffer, Kirby, Cooper, Paterson, Pohl, McGregor, Hawkins, Voigt, Hamilton, O. Smith, Geo. F. Wilkins, 33 Japanese in cabin; and 424 Japanese in the steerage. For America: Rev. Young, Messrs. J. Allen, W. M. Lovatt, G. A. Batchelor. For Liverpool Mr. Jas Beattie.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie* from Hongkong:—Lieut. J. A. L. Coker, R.A., Rev. Mr. Haymud, U.S.N.; and 1 Japanese in the steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. E. Boninger; and 1 European in the steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—Messrs. J. P. Reid, H. Cope, G. W. Brown, R.N., J. J. Amner, Miss Rigg and Miss Huckell; and 10 Chinese on deck.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Laura," Nov. 21; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Oxfordshire," Jan. 31.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Saunders R. Mead," Oct. 26; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Haze," Dec. 31.

FROM HAMBURG:—"August," Oct. 16.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—P. M. S. S. "China" March 4; O. & O. S. "Oceanic" March 19.

FROM CARDIFF:—"Sir Chas. Napier," July 19. (Hiogo.)

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM HONGKONG:—"M. M. S. S. "Tibre," March 21.

FROM SHANGHAI:—"Omha," March 19.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Glenartney," S. S. "Glamis Castle," "Laurel," "Flying Spur," S. S. "Prince Frederick Carl," S. S. "Madras."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. April 6th; Hongkong M. M. str. March 31st; America P. M. str. March 30th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. March 28th.

CARGOES:—Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$9,000.00 and 149,500.00 yen.

Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—General Merchandise, 4,017 packages

REPORTS:—The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left San Francisco on the 21st February, at noon. Encountered strong westerly gales the entire passage. Passed British barque *Formosa* of Liverpool 200 miles West of San Francisco on 22nd February, 53 days out from Puget Sound, bound for Pico, Peru.

The French barque *Succes* reports:—Left Newcastle, N.S.W., on the 6th of January. Had moderate weather throughout. Called at the Solomon Islands and did some trading with the natives, also touched at Pleasant Island. The natives were very unruly. There were two Europeans on the Island.

The Norwegian ship *Jotun* reports:—Left Newcastle, N.S.W., on the 20th January. Light and pleasant weather in South Pacific; strong N. W. winds on Japan Coast.

H. B. M.'s Corvette *Juno* reports:—Left Shanghai on the 15th March. Passed P. & O. steamer at 5 p.m. on the 19th, standing West. Experienced light winds from N. E. until nearing Van Dieman's Straits, when it blew strong from the North. At 3 p.m. on the 20th off Japan heavy sea from the South.

The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 13th March, 1878, at 4.16 p.m., with 3 saloon and 494 steerage passengers, and 1,905 tons cargo. Encountered strong N. E. monsoon and high head sea to Yokohama; thence to port variable winds. Arrived March 21st, at 12.07 a.m.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Mar. 18	Ladoga	Pierce	Am. ship	950	Hongkong		Rice	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 19	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	Mar. 26	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 20	Frederick Perthes	Walder	Ger. barq.	446	Amoy		Wheat	Chinese.
" 20	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Shanghai & ports	Mar. 28	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 22	Gaelic	Kidley	Brit. str.	2,756	Hongkong		Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 23	Belgie	Meyer	Brit. str.	2,627	San Francisco		Mails and general	O. & O. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Malacca*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. G. B. Gallier, R.N., J. Newell, and 1 Chinese in cabin; 9 Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—For Kobe: Mr. Iwakura, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Messrs. Itow, Mushanokoji, Otori, J. Conder, Yamamoto, Naobayashi, Nakamura, and MacMartin and servant. For Shimonoseki: Mr. and Mrs. Fukuhara, Mrs. Fukuhara and child. For Nagasaki: The Misses Parkes (2) and Nurse. For Shanghai: Sir J. Campbell Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brent, Mrs. Youd, and Mr. A. W. Glennie.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* for Hongkong:—Dr. Hamilton, R.N.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie* for San Francisco:—Messrs. Bartram, Beattie, W. N. Lovatt, E. O. Erring, Bachelor, Young J. Allen, Mrs. C. A. Fletcher and son, S. Mayer, Geo. Alart, and Baringer.

LOADING:—*Tanaka*, for Hongkong and Europe, March 26th.—M. M. Co.

Tokio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, March 27th.—M. B. M. Co.

City of Tokio, for San Francisco, April 2nd.—P. M. Co.

Paros, for Niigata, Quick despatch.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. April 2nd; for Hongkong M. M. str. March 26th; for America P. M. str. April 5th; for Shanghai, Hiogo and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str. March 28th.

CARGOES:—Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—For London, 57 bales Silk; for France, 46 bales Silk; for Italy, 4 bales Silk.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, 133,207.00.00 yen and \$101,023.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* for Hongkong:—Rice, 20,000 piculs; General, 304 packages; Treasure, \$26,525.00.

Per Brit. str. *Belgie* for San Francisco:—For San Francisco, 2,365 packages Tea; for New York, 2,640 packages Tea; for Chicago, 6,188 packages Tea; for New York, 512 packages Silk

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Akitashima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up. Repairing.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	" 22	M. B. M. Co.	
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steamer	1,870	Sha'hai & p'ts	Feb. 7	M. B. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	" 15	M. B. M. Co.	
Sunda	Reeves	British steamer	1,704	Hongkong	" 22	P. & O. Co.	
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Tamura Maru	Dithlefsen	Japanese steamer	558	Kobe		Government service	
Tanais	De la Marcelle	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	Feb. 22	M. M. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tokio Maru	Swain	Japanese steamer	2,119	Sha'hai & p'ts	Mar. 21	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Japanese steamer	880	Kobe	" 1	M. B. M. Co.	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	" 15	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
SAILING SHIP.							
Adeline Marianne	Dahl	German barque	300	Takao	Mar. 19	Jardine Matheson & Co.	Niigata.
Alerta	Talbot	British schooner	215	Takao	" 12	Netherlands Trading Co.	
Areola	Penery	British barque	947	Newport	" 8	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Bertha Marion	Scarlett	British ship	595	London	"	L. Kniffler & Co.	
Fire Queen	Hamilton	British barque	769	Hakodate	" 17	E. B. Watson.	
Iphigenia	Green	German barque	464	Hamburg	" 8	L. Kniffler & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	H'mb'g v'á K'be	" 14	L. Kniffler & Co.	
Jotun	Hauff	Norw'gn ship	885	N'wca'le n.s.w.	" 19	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands	Nov. 8	Captain	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain	
Otsego	Cook	American sch'ner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
Paralos	Pasco	French barque	340	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 11	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Sacramento	Nelson	American ship	1,580	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Feb. 17	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Succes	Ollivaud	French barque	363	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 19	Walsh, Hall & Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Modesta	14 ...	1,405 ...	Corvette	Captain Buller C.B.
BRITISH—Egeria	4 ...	1,011 ...	Sloop	Captain Douglas.
BRITISH—Juno	8 ...	2,216 ...	Corvette	Captain Poland.
GERMAN—Augusta	12 ...	1,900 ...	Corvette	Captain Hessempfung.
RUSSIAN—Boyan .....	...	2,000 ...	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak	8 ...	1,100 ...	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
RUSSIAN—Vladnick	8 ...	1,069 ...	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India	Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon	Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements	Singapore, Penang.
Java	Batavia, Sourabaya.
China	Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan	Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

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RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

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Deputy Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, A. McIver Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., Ed. Tobin, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpots, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class	.....12 Months	.....1½ Per Cent.
" " "	.....6 " "	.....1 " "
" " "	.....3 " "	.....½ " "
" " "	.....1 " "	.....¼ " "
" " "	.....10 days	.....3-16 " "

Dwelling Houses in the Settlement.

First Class, per annum	.....2½ Per Cent.
Second " " "	.....3 " "

Dwelling Houses on the Bluff.

First Class, per annum	.....1½ Per Cent.
Second " " "	.....2 " "

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messes. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,

Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE**
INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. P. H. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th. 1874

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500	15 " " " 1,000
20 " " " 100	20 " " " 500
40 " " " 30	400 " " " 100
2 approximations of \$250	9 approximations of \$500
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " " 250
	Ticket \$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor	.....\$50.00
do. do. second floor	.....\$40.00
BOARD only per month	.....\$25.00
DINNER	.....0.75
TIFFIN	.....0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING
SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

Parents wishful to place children under her charge at the Pension Dogny, may address their enquiries as to terms &c. to the Editor of the *Japan Times*, who is empowered to furnish them.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

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The paper will be forwarded to our subscribers through the Japanese post. Subscribers who wish to forward copies of the paper to friends abroad, may forward to us the addresses to which they wish them sent; when they will be regularly dispatched, without charge for postage.

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'The Manager of the JAPAN TIMES'

to No. 85, Main Street, Yokohama. the office of the JAPAN GAZETTE.

Correspondents' letters and other matter, intended for insertion in the body of the paper, must be addressed to the 'Editor of the JAPAN TIMES' at the same address.

THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. NO. 13.]

March 30, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

TREATY REVISION.—THE JAPANESE YEN.

A FORTNIGHT ago, we enunciated our conviction that a 'revision of the Currency Question should take precedence of revision of any part of the Tariff . . . that, under the Revised Treaty, Mexican Dollars should enter Japanese ports only as bullion, and that proper respect should be paid to Japan's indubitable sovereign right of minting the coinage which shall thereafter be the medium of exchange in the Japan Trade.' We very briefly reviewed the original Treaties, showing how evilly for Japan had worked the provision in Art. X. (Great Britain and Japan 1858) that all foreign coin should 'be current in Japan, and pass for its corresponding weight in Japanese coin of the same description ;'—enumerated the opportunities Japan had lost and the errors into which her financiers had been led; summarized the results of twenty years' mismanagement, culminating in a confusion of currencies, gold, silver, and paper, which impede commerce, while they promote gambling; endorsed the demand of an intelligently-edited native journal, that the Mexican Dollar should be excised from the trade as an excrescence; and, having thus diagnosed the evil, concluded with the remark that 'happily, the remedy is not far to seek.'

A move in the proper direction was made eight years after the opening of the port, the inconveniences attendant on the exchange of dollars for boos having become intolerable. In Article VI. of the Convention of 1866, which effected the first revision of the Tariff, it was stated and agreed as follows:—

"In conformity with those articles of the Treaties concluded between Japan and Foreign Powers, which stipulate for the circulation of foreign coin at its corresponding weight in native coin of the same description, dollars have hitherto been received at the Japanese Custom-house in payment of duties at their weight in Boos (commonly called Itchiboo), that is to say, at the rate of Three Hundred and Eleven Boos per Hundred Dollars.* The Japanese Government, being however desirous to alter this practice and to abstain from all interference in the exchange of native for foreign coin, and being also anxious to meet the wants, both of native and foreign commerce, by securing an adequate issue of native coin, have already determined to enlarge the Japanese Mint so as to admit of the Japanese Government exchanging into native coin of the same intrinsic value, less only the cost of coinage, at the places named for this purpose, all foreign coin or bullion, in gold or silver, that may at any time be tendered to them by foreigners or Japanese. It being essential however to the execution of this measure, that the various Powers with whom Japan has concluded Treaties should first consent to modify the stipulations in those Treaties which relate to the currency, the Japanese Government will at once propose to those Powers the adoption of the necessary modification in the said stipulations, and, on receiving their concurrence, will be prepared from the 1st of January, 1868, to carry the above measure into effect.

* Now, \$100 Mexican are equal in weight to 312 boos;

"The rates to be charged as the cost of coinage shall be determined hereafter, by the common consent of the contracting parties."

The 1st of January 1868 found the country suffering the premonitory birth-throes of a new polity; but as soon as could be reasonably expected, the Cabinet of the restored Mikado fulfilled the promises of the Shōgun. The Hong-kong Mint, discarded by that Colony without sufficient trial of its working, was purchased and set up at Osaka. This was an initial error, and the site was selected in opposition to the advice of the Oriental Bank; but it was a pardonable one, as the Japanese Cabinet only shared the hope, since proved so delusive, which was entertained by a majority of foreign merchants, that Osaka, not Tokio or Yokohama, would be, in a near future, the commercial metropolis of Japan. And it is to be regretted that the men who had drafted Art. VI. of the Convention of 1866 did not have the carrying out of their own policy. For it was clearly implied, though not clearly stated, in that proposition, that the Mexican dollar should only enter the country in the same way as any other bullion, through the Mint,—and though the error of bi-metalism was foreshadowed, still it is evident that they meant to give us a Japanese silver yen as the sole unit of value in silver currency, and to abolish the Mexican dollar, with all its variable values, intrinsic and fancied. Their successors unfortunately overlooked this point, so essential to the success of their attempt at Currency Reform. A pity; for they were evidently in earnest. The services of Major Kinder, a man of European reputation in his line, and one of the best servants the Government has ever had, were secured for the new Mint; he arrived, with a thoroughly efficient staff, and the establishment was formally opened, and coinage on a large scale begun, on April 4th 1871. But then the Government committed a grave error;—radical; by no means so venial as the wrong selection of site; an error not of omission or forgetfulness, but deliberate and persisted in, spite of the strenuous opposition of the Government's own foreign banker, and its own foreign Mint-Director; an error to which is traceable the loss which the Mint has caused, and which has deprived the country of the profit it should have given, during the past seven years. Gold was made the legal tender. And yet the silver yen was not made altogether a subsidiary coin, for. Art. IV. of the 'Currency Edict,' notified to the public shortly after the opening of the Mint, that

"for the convenience of commerce at the open ports, the silver one yen will be coined for the present for Japanese and foreigners on application; this will be the silver coin of commerce, and is intended to facilitate the operations thereof.

"This silver one yen is solely to be used in the payment of import and export duties and all other taxes at the open ports, and in operations between Japanese and foreign merchants; not only will it be unavailable for the public payment of internal taxes of every sort, nor will it be

generally current; but it will be optional to any person to use it, in making or receiving payments by mutual agreement throughout Japan.

"In payment of duties and taxes at the open ports, the relative value of the silver *yen* and the standard gold coin will be for the present at the rate of 100 *yen* for the 101 gold *yen*."

It had been originally the intention of the Government, then acting under the advice of the Oriental Bank and Major Kinder, to have made silver the standard and the silver *yen* the unit of value and legal tender—gold and the smaller silver pieces being coins of convenience. But unhappily, they "gave careful consideration to the convenience of the gold and silver coinage systems of Europe and America;" they "referred to books," and took "the opinion of experienced persons;" heard of the "Coinage reform Conference of Paris" and "maturely and minutely considered what would be most advantageous and convenient for the future of Japanese coinage." And by these processes, in the course of a few weeks, they "arrived at the conclusion" embodied in their new Currency Edict: viz. to abandon the path marked out for them by men, the study and business of whose lives had been currency and finance. Verily, this people must be of the descendants of Reuben; it has 'the excellency of dignity, the excellency of power'—but the curse clings to it—'unstable as water, thou shalt not excel!'

We have no intention of writing an essay on the virtues and vices of a bi-metallic system of currency generally, to be criticised by the half-dozen of our readers who understand or care for financial questions—to be thrown aside unread by the large majority who do not. It is quite enough for us to note briefly the consequences of its introduction here. For though, nominally, gold was made the standard and the legal tender; and the silver *yen* was stated to be 'solely' for payments of taxes and duties at the open ports, and for commercial operations between Japanese and foreigners; still, in the same breath, the people were told that any one might use it for making payments, by mutual agreement, throughout Japan. It may be argued that, unless this latter sentence had been inserted in the edict, the people, accustomed to receive very minute instructions from their rulers, would have conceived a prejudice against the silver coin; but to us it seems that the phrase,—as also the temporary advantage given in exchange of one *per cent.* in payment of duties to silver over gold,—indicated a sort of half-hearted inclination to conciliate the advocates of a silver standard. We need not say that they were not conciliated, and the port records show how both kinds of coin were exported to the melting-pot, without either going into circulation; becoming merchandize, just as silk and shirtings, and bought and sold just as their bullion values fluctuated in other markets. For the fundamental error of 1858, which had not been corrected by the Convention of 1866, was still left unrepaired by the Currency edict of 1871. The Mexican dollar was allowed to remain as a current coin, as a favoured rival to the Japanese *yen*, instead of being imported solely as bullion, and passed through the Mint,—in accordance with an inherent sovereign right vested in the monarchy, which Japan has always neglected to demand, which the European Powers, in obedience to recognized principles of international law, could not, nor would have, refused. We trust that, in the approaching re-revision of the Tariff, this inherent right will be persistently maintained, and that the trade will at last be freed from the illegitimate tax, paid mainly to Chinese shroffs, which it has so long borne in the shape of that excrescence—the Mexican Dollar.

For this is the *crux* of the whole question. It was hopeless, when the Mint was originally started, with two *per cent.* charged as seigniorage for coining silver

yen, to expect that the Mexican dollar, another coin, equally current by law or force of Treaty, and payable for customs-dues and Taxes, would come to the Mint unless forced thither; dropping the seigniorage to one-and-a-half *per cent.*, to one, to a-half, to nothing, could have no better result: the Mexican is too strongly rooted in custom, prejudice and petty profits, to be *coaxed* out of use and, as we have seen through all these years, buys the Japanese *yen*, on the contrary, at a varying discount.

And here we may, as appropriately as elsewhere, interpolate the warning that the Government,—when it asks the consent of the Treaty powers to the relegation of the Mexican Dollar to its proper position as bullion,—must be prepared to face the loss of the whole cost of recoinage—without any seigniorage at all—of whatever Mexican Dollars are then to be found in Japan. Holders cannot be fairly made to pay either the cost of re-coinage, or the charges of returning them to China. But this item of cost, though it will be heavy, will be a single and special one, not to be repeated; and for the Finance Minister's comfort, we may tell him one of the Chinese shroff's secrets:—that there are certain issues of Mexican Dollars which contain in their 417.60 grains of metal a modicum of gold, which the Mexican Mints that send them out have not the means of extracting from the silver ore, but which the Osaka Mint has, — in common with the London bullion refineries;—and the value of which will very considerably aid in paying that establishment for its work. Proper precautions, in making the change, must of course be taken against spurious Mexican coin, of which there is not a little in circulation, being foisted on the Government; and it will only be fair that the new coin should be returned, weight for weight,—not by tale; but that some loss has to be faced is of course certain, and it must be contentedly endured. The counterbalancing advantages of the reform will be immediately felt, and these will go on growing, long after its cost has been buried in oblivion.

But we must have no more mistakes. In the concluding part of this attempt to show how Japanese currency may be replaced on a sound basis, we may explain why the Japanese 'Trade Dollar' must be abolished. It must suffice, at present, to lay it down as a fact of necessity. A silver *yen*, of 900 fineness and 417.60 grains weight, must be current, and a legal tender—throughout the country,—not merely at the Treaty ports. In currency, simplicity should always be aimed at, and to make a coin a legal tender for some purposes, and not for others, invests it on occasion with a fictitious value which it should not possess. Care must, of course, be taken that its action shall not be detrimental to the paper-money now in circulation; and this fear as well as the desire to get gold into circulation, seems to have been influencing the authors of the Currency Edict, when in Art. IV., quoted in full above, they enacted that it would be "unavailable for the public payment of internal taxes of every sort, nor would be generally current." Now,—the opportunity ought to be taken of putting the paper-money, also, upon its proper basis. It is of course impossible, in the existing state of Japanese finance, for Government to put *kinsatsu* in the same position as the bank-notes of a rich European State, and declare them, at once, payable in silver on demand. But a step should now be taken in this direction. As we have frequently insisted, Japan enjoys quite an exceptional advantage over every other nation,—traceable to her long isolation from the rest of the world: her own people have a most valuable faith in their Government's irredeemable paper promises to pay. But as her foreign commerce increases—and only by her foreign commerce can she accumulate wealth—she must seek to extend this feeling of confidence in her paper to foreign minds. Her punctual and prompt payment of all her foreign loan engagements hitherto have gone far to establish her credit;

and the announcement that she intended, as soon as possible, to convert her present irredeemable paper into notes payable in silver on demand, would most materially enhance it. Consolidation of her internal debt by means of a new foreign loan at low interest would be greatly assisted by such a Proclamation.

This would be a digression, were it not that the operation of the paper and silver currencies so overlap as to make it impossible to consider them altogether apart. To return, however, to our main argument: the silver *yen*, we repeat, must be a legal tender, current for all and every purpose, and *kimsatsu* legal tender as far as the people will stand it. And, having sufficiently insisted on this point, and on its corollary, that the Mexican dollar must be forced out of circulation, we may pause for the present. Subsidiary coinage, and the extension of the Japanese Mint into a money-making machine for the China trade, (thus carrying the attack on the Mexican enemy into its own country) together with the details of the guarantees and safeguards which the Treaty Powers are entitled to demand of Japan, when restoring her imperial right of coinage;—these are subjects too important to be forced upon the attention of exhausted readers at the end of an article already too long.

RIVERS REBUILT.

WE HAVE shown how Rivers are ruined; we have now to explain how they may be restored.

As the character of each stream varies with several circumstances of the country through which it passes, and of the watershed which supplies it, it is of course clear that no such precise instructions or rules can be promulgated for the work of restoration of rivers, as in the case of re-creating woods; the assistance of the skilled engineer is here requisite, to determine,—after careful survey of the locality,—the proper method of procedure. But as the ignorance or the greed of man loosened the bonds which restrained the prodigious forces of Nature, and set them free to destroy: so, happily, can man's skill,—by very simple means, easily applied,—so mould and direct these forces, that they hasten to repair. The method of their application and the time required for their action, are varying quantities in each calculation, but in every case the same principles come into play:—the utilization of the force of the water, to move obstacles, the employment of materials found on the spot to create the necessary barriers to control it;—and, imperatively and universally, the application of these principles at the proper points. Contemplating a river in ruins at its choked mouth, or through miles and miles of devastated land upwards towards its source, it would seem that the task of restoration was hopeless to attempt. But when we have reflected that a torrent, which it is almost impossible for masonry to bridle, is but composed of drops which trickle off single blades of grass; that the fall of a whole hill side into a river's gorge is caused by the tiny pressure of the same drops, expanding as they freeze in the fissures of the rock; it becomes at once clear that to direct and use these forces in their earlier stages of development is sufficiently easy; that it is only when permitted to accumulate without our direction, that they become difficult to control.

It is therefore to the sources of the ruined river that the attention of the engineer should be first directed, not to its mouth: and these are found in gorges in the hills which ultimately all debouch into what thereafter becomes the bed of the main stream. These vary in contour. When their course is through argillaceous schist, they are comparatively straight, the rain-fall rushes through them with great violence, continually undermining and bringing down masses of the banks on either side, which dissolve into

mud and form a heavy torrent most difficult to manage. For, as the storm-water subsides, mud dams accumulate at points where slight obstacles present themselves, and on the next occasion of heavy rain, these are at once swept away, and carry with them, down into the main gorge, rocks, trees, conglomerated masses of earth and pebbles, to continually recruit the store of material already there in excess. Material which the river carries onwards in suspension, steadily to fill up its bed; periodically—under exceptionally heavy rain pressure—to distribute over the cultivated land on either side of its banks; and ultimately, to diminish the depth of water on its bar. The only cure for this form of evil is the establishment, in the bed of the torrent itself, or at accessible points on either side of its course, of numerous small reservoirs; and these are not difficult to construct. If the reader will place a straight ruler or a paper-knife at an angle upon a table, and imagine its edge to be the bed of such a torrent, he will see that, by cutting notches at intervals and piling up, just in front of them, the stuff taken out of these notches, a series of deep holes will be formed with sufficient embankments, which will collect and arrest the rain-fall in its successive stages, check the rapidity of the fall by depriving the water of accumulation of impetus, and compelling it to rest at intervals; and finally transmit to the main gorge the surplus water in a comparatively limpid state. Then, during the intervals between rain-falls, these reservoirs discharge another duty. On totally disafforested hills, of course evaporation under the sun's rays goes on rapidly, but still some of the water percolates through the rocks to stimulate vegetation in every favourable nook, and gradually a *humus* is formed which can nourish seeds borne to it by the wind, or deposited in it by wandering birds. To the tree-planter, who is seeking to restore the forests, such reservoirs are of course of great value, as they soon enable him to start a fringe of young plants on each side of the water courses, of which a fair percentage will live. And here we must interpolate a reiteration of what we have written before, when treating of Forestry:—that afforestation is the main agent for the restoration of rivers, ruined by the destruction of the woods which used to protect their sources. The 'rebuilder' of a river, if we may apply such a phrase to an engineer, must work with and for the forester. The growth of the new woods will, year by year, moderate the flow of the rain water; and, absorbing some, and spreading much over the surface of the ground, will prevent its too rapid concentration in the channels we have described. The roots of the trees will give cohesion to the soil, and carry the water down to dissolve the mineral salts below, to trickle out again lower down the hill in fertilising little rills, or perhaps to reappear, miles away, in the valley springs. And the disintegration and downfall of the hill-sides and torrent banks will be in great measure arrested.

But the majority of the upper torrents which feed a river rarely flow in any thing approaching a straight line, particularly in such a country as Japan, where severe volcanic action has so dislocated geologic formations, that a variety of rocks, of various hardness, form the sides of the *crevasses*, or rifts, through which they fall. Water, always seeking the path along which it can move most rapidly, wastes neither time nor power in attempting to pierce or overpass an obstacle which it can circumvent. By judiciously observing the flow of a sinuous torrent like this, the engineer can guide it, by very simple means, down to the bed of his main river in the foot-hills, and can prevent its doing damage, by using its own weight and force to place the necessary restraints upon its fall. To explain how this can be done, we must have recourse to another homely means of illustration. Let the reader drop a ribbon or a piece of string upon a table in a zigzag line, and this will fairly enough represent the

course of most mountain torrents. Now the natural course of the stream being direct, it will be at once seen that its force is first projected against the rock at the uppermost bend of the channel, and if this obstacle consists of anything but the hardest material, it will soon be undermined, broken up, and carried down into the torrent's bed. But brushwood, interlaced and laid across from the point where the water strikes, diagonally to the opposite wall of the chasm, and loaded with the dislodged stones lying about, will immediately form a simple but effective weir. The force of the water is lessened by the diagonal wall across it increasing its width; it may be made to precipitate itself over any desired point of the little fall, and its impingement upon the bed below will soon wear out a hollow, in which the stream finds temporary rest. The detritus swept down against each of the barriers set up thicken and strengthen them, and, instead of a raging torrent, after an hour's rain, rushing down the gorge, tearing every thing before it, the water gradually fills up a succession of levels and is, so to speak, handed down the hill side in pools-full, and delivered at the bottom 'in good order and condition.' And these weirs, and the excavated reservoirs in the other class of torrent-bed we have referred to, are simple, inexpensive, yet perfectly effective checks to the initial destruction in the upper divisions of rivers, and possess the great advantage that the remedy they bring begins to operate immediately on its application. Other contrivances have to be made to suit particular emergencies; for each river-nymph has her own idiosyncrasy, which must be humoured; but these the river-engineer will have no difficulty in inventing on the spot, or in carrying out with material lying ready to his hand. We have given examples of the two chief groups of mountain torrents, the sources of rivers, and pass to the treatment of the middle sections of their resulting streams.

For the upper, middle, and lower divisions of rivers require each a different method of conservation and improvement, as the animal must be educated through infancy and youth, up to the fulness of maturity, if good use is to be made of its life. Descending from the mountains to the foot hills, and supposing the descent of lithic matter to have been checked as we have described and the torrent-force restrained within due bounds, we have still a modified waterfall to control, for the stream has many yards of height to descend before it reaches the plains, and with its continually added tributaries, its volume and its force increase in proportion to its usefulness, and its rapids now require as much care in directing and controlling them, as did the upper falls. Similar means must be employed to diminish the velocity of storm-waters by diagonal weirs, built with material obtained from the river's bed during the dry season, and the reservoirs of water-power accumulated above each barrier may now be drawn off and utilized to drive machinery of many descriptions. The banks of the stream specially require protection, and here the planting of willows, alders, osiers, and all such trees as, in a state of nature, mark the course of an unspoiled stream, must be encouraged. Occasionally, the character of the original geologic rift is such—as in the case of part of the Fujikawa, quoted last week—that for some miles nothing is required but occasional weirs, to check the stream's velocity, and to give it opportunities, when under stress of flood, to deposit the lithic burden it may then have to carry in spots convenient for subsequent removal; but where the banks are softer to the touch of the stream, protection must occasionally be given by 'groynes'—artificial bulwarks built out at the weak points to receive its impact. By any one who has travelled at all in Japan, numerous instances of attempts in this direction will be at once recalled to memory, and doubtless, a fair proportion of the 1,416,500 *yen* which appeared in the Finance Minister's estimates for the expenditure for 1878, under the head

of 'Repairs and Constructions of Dykes in Fu and Ken' will be devoted to the purpose. Some of these constructions are highly ingenious, and, if more judiciously placed, would be serviceable and lasting. Unfortunately they are not so, and the expenditure under this head will go on increasing, until the lesson is learnt that such embankments must serve a double purpose. They must not be designed and placed solely to shield the bank, but also so as to influence what we must call the 'rhythmic' flow of the stream, which, once secured, will soon leave the 'groynes' unmolested, except under stress of an unusual weight of storm-water.

For the river whose course we have been tracing from its stormy birth amongst the hills, now enters the third division of its existence,—its useful progress through the plains, as a highway for shipping; and from this point to its peaceful death in the sea, its treatment must be changed, for the promotion of this 'rhythmic' flow is now the chief object of the hydraulic engineer. Hitherto his efforts have been directed towards restraining the velocity of the current, and adapting it to the geologic formation of the country through which it has passed, so as to prevent its moving any considerable quantity of solid matter which would choke its bed and force its waters over the banks. Now the country, as a rule, becomes flatter, the bed of the stream has less fall, and the task of the engineer is to promote—or rather carefully to remove every obstacle that might check—the river's flow; so that, on reaching the sea, sufficient force shall remain to enable it to so far overcome the resistance of the mass of ocean water on which it impinges, that it shall carry sufficiently far from its mouth the now finely-granulated solid matter held in suspension. Every river is more or less obstructed by a 'bar,' the name given by mariners to the bank of material deposited, generally in the form of a crescent, with its convex side turned towards the sea, in front of the mouth. As we have insisted more than once, each river has its own peculiarities, and nowhere are these more strongly marked than in the formation of its 'bar.' It is of course a leading fact, that the collision of the two masses of liquid flowing in different directions—the river down, and the tide up—is the primary cause of the deposit, but the configuration and progress of the work varies in every case, in every part of the world. And so must vary the means employed for removing or lessening the obstacles; and it is of course impossible, within our limits, to even enumerate their causes or their cures.

Enough for our present purpose to deal with those of the principal rivers of Japan which have been 'ruined,' and which appear susceptible of being 'rebuilt.' There is a certain generic resemblance between them: at Osaka, Tokio, Niigata, the stream, after suffering in its upper and middle courses from the destructive influences we have described, flows through an alluvial plain, without any scientific attempt being made to guide its course, breaking down or overflowing its soft banks in the rainy season and, in the dry, diminishing to mere threads of water, many of which actually disappear in masses of sand before they reach the sea. In neither of these, nor in any other similar case, will dredging be of avail, until the operating causes, which we have detailed as at work higher up the streams, are removed; and until this is done as we have described, dredging on the bar must always be as we have called it—a Sisyphæan labour. But with the constant access of debris from the upper and middle streams checked by afforestation, reservoirs, dams and protection of the banks, the force of the river in its lower division may then be utilized to assist the hydraulic engineer and his dredgers in opening out again a fairway for vessels to the sea. This is not at all a difficult matter, Nature asking only slight assistance from man to do most of the restoration work herself.

No river flows continuously in a straight line. The slightest obstacle suffices to turn the flexible water, which strikes off from it at an angle of reflexion equal to the angle of its previous incidence. In the case of a river, it necessarily project itself against the opposite bank and, then returns again, and this action once set up, the river's flow becomes what we have called 'rhythmic,' the current must go on winding, in accordance with *the law of reciprocity of curves*, a law which we need not more fully explain here than by saying that it is identical in principle with that which governs the motion of the pendulum. If a river flowed between banks of precisely similar materials, and had no variety of obstacles to check it, its passage to the sea from the point where the first impulse had been given to its current, would be through a series of alternate curves of precisely equal radius. But the mass of the current does not confine itself to a mere change of direction. In striking against each bank in succession, it gradually eats it away, and in the case of the rivers we are now considering, as continually adds to the superfluous deposit in the bed. We are indebted to M. M. Laporte and Vézian, French engineers, for the idea of assisting this rhythmic flow, and at the same time protecting the banks from erosion, by a system of what they call 'guiding-banks.' They are difficult to describe without the assistance of a diagram: but if our readers can imagine a ladder, bent in alternate slight curves, and with its rungs divided alternately at their right and left junction with the sides, and then bent, so as at each curve of the ladder, to prolong the arc a little way inwards; they will almost realize the figure. We occasionally see, in Japanese rivers, attempts to protect the banks from erosion by breakwaters of stones, stone-laden fascines, or rows of piles laced together with bamboos—but these are all wrongly placed, projecting perpendicularly across the set of the current, or at various incorrect angles to it; and not correctly placed, relatively to each other. Everything depends, in the employment of this simple means of protection, on the 'guiding-banks' exactly corresponding to the parabolic curves taken by the current itself, and upon their being placed at precisely the proper spots on each bank. Their value is made apparent from the day they are built. Instead of rushing against and into the banks, the water silently slips along the faces of these embankments, the volume of the current is increased, scour of the bed is created, and a portion of the deposit which the river is carrying is dropped by the slack on each side of the winding centre channel, into the still water behind these guiding-banks, where it can easily be utilized to strengthen them; until in course of time the river gradually assumes a precisely correct configuration, with a clear fairway, on a smooth bed in the middle of its stream.

Of course, when streams have been neglected for centuries, as in Japan, there is much work to be done,—after this—at their actual mouths, and, besides dredging, in most instances, jetties would probably have to be built out into deep water, before the rivers could be made navigable. And in this country, it is here that the Dutch 'zinkstijks' would be very valuable. But consideration of this part of the subject involves also that of the various methods of reclamation of fore-shore; and requires an article to itself. We trust that, so far as we have written of the restoration of rivers proper, we have been able to make ourselves understood; if we are as successful in directing the attention of Government to this very profitable reform, as we have been in the matter of Forestry, our object will have been fully attained.

AFFORESTATION.

IT is with very cordial satisfaction that we publish the following Notification by the Naimusho (Home Office)

respecting Forestry, which reaches us just in time for publication in this week's *Times*. We have reason to believe that the articles which appeared in this Review on the subject attracted the attention of the Government, and that this Notification is their sequence; the most grateful reward for his labour which a journalist can receive.

We sincerely trust that the recommendation urged in the second article of our series will be carried out in detail. A sub-department of the Naimusho, analogous to our Department of Woods and Forests, should be at once appointed; and intelligent and intelligible Instructions, such as we sketched out in the rough, immediately prepared, to be placed in the hands of the Government forest-tenants. And the people must, moreover, be compelled to carry them out. There is no more opined, wrong headed, stupid animal in all countries under the sun, than your agricultural peasant, and he cannot be led, but must always be pushed, into paths of reform. We warn the Government, that unless this most important matter be attended to, time, labour and money will all be thrown away. Forestry is a science, and cannot be learnt in a day.

NOTIFICATION BY THE NAIMUSHO (HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.)

No. 4A. 14th day of the 3rd month of the 11th year of Meiji.

It is hereby notified that, as the plantation of woods is of most urgent necessity, the accompanying Regulations for 'joint interest'* plantations have been decided upon and will be carried out, and that the people must adhere thereto in taking advantage thereof.

OKUBO TOSHIMICHI
(Minister for Home Affairs.)

REGULATIONS RELATING TO TITHED PLANTATION OF WOODS.

I.—Mountains and fields without trees belonging to the Government, may, in the event of there being no obstruction on the part of the Government, and on application from the people, be leased to them for the planting of such trees as are suitable for the ground, the Government taking some portion of the products and the other portion remaining to the people themselves. This is what is meant by tithed plantations.

NOTE. Government forests in which the trees have already been cut down, may be worked under these same Regulations, if any similar system of joint-interest planting has heretofore existed regarding them.

II.—Those who are willing to become tenants of such Government lands with the object stated in Clause I must in the first place, survey the extent of the ground, ascertain the quality of the soil and apply to their local Government office, in the accompanying form No. I.

III.—In the cases mentioned in the preceding clauses, the local Government office will despatch officers to inspect and ascertain that everything (stated in the application) is correct; and will then accede to the application and give the applicants a tenancy certificate (lease) in the accompanying form No. 2.

IV.—The mode of dividing trees grown on the land will be decided suitably, according to the means of transit, quality of the ground, and the degree of anxiety of the people to do it;—from two-tenths to the Government and eight-tenths to the people (for instance, if there are 100 trees, 20 will be taken by the Government and 80 by the tenant) to five-tenths to the Government, and five-tenths to the tenant.

V.—The mode of dividing the products mentioned in Clause IV. may be as follows:—the trees after they have grown, may be divided where they stand; or at the time of felling, both the Government and the tenant may ap-

* It is not easy to find a single word expressive of the meaning of the Japanese here. There is a compound word, signifying that the Government and its tenants are to be proportionally interested in the ventures. Perhaps a better term would be 'tithed' plantations.

point a valuer for each side, and then divide the amount of money estimated by the valuer to be the total of the trees. Either of these modes may be adopted by mutual consent of both parties.

NOTE. In case the Government should unavoidably require the ground for some other purpose, the Government will purchase at a suitable price such trees as are due to the tenant.

VI.—The local Government office will keep a full record of the extent of ground lent to people each year, the name and number of the trees (sown or planted) and the name and address of the tenants, and submit the same for the year ending in December, to the "Chirikiyoku" (the Geographical section of the Naimusho) not later than during January of the next year.

VII.—The Government will take no rent for the ground,* but the tenant will be responsible for the expenses of plantation and protection of the trees.

VIII.—If, after plantation, and as the trees grow, the tenants wish to cut some down, in order to thin out the wood, they should apply to the local Government office beforehand, and that office will, if it is proved to be correct on inspection, accede to the same, and the trees felled for that purpose will all belong to the tenant. The Local Government office will report to the Chirikiyoku of the Naimusho, for correction, (of the list) the number of trees so felled, without fail, not later than January of the next year.

NOTE. If however, trees which have grown more than 15 years, are felled for that purpose, such trees will be divided according to the agreement made in the fourth clause.

IX.—On the application for leasing ground being granted, the tenant should fix its boundaries on four sides and erect a post as under-described at each of the four corners.

X.—If, for his own convenience, the tenant wishes to transfer to another his right to the plantation, he must make application to the local Government office, with a full account of all circumstances relating thereto; and the office will, if it finds there is no inconvenience, endorse the request on the back of the lease and report the same to the Chirikiyoku of the Naimusho.

NOTE. If the tenant wishes to pawn or mortgage the trees, he must obtain the approval of the local Kocho (village officer) in accordance with Notification No. 6 of the 7th year of Meiji.

XI.—The extent of the ground to be leased is not yet decided, but such an extent as would be suitable for the number of trees proposed for plantation will be leased.

NOTE. According to the number of trees to be planted, if although a large extent is required, it is impossible to plant them all at once, planting gradually may be allowed within a limit not longer than three years—but if any of the land is left unplanted after the lapse of the three years, such will at once revert to the Government.

XII.—When the plantation shall have actually been completed, whether all at once or gradually, such should be reported to the local Government office and an inspection made.

Here follow the forms of application &c., &c.

We shall take an opportunity of criticising these Regulations in detail next week; at present we have neither time nor space for the performance of the duty. We would only point out now the necessity of carrying on the restoration of Forests and Rivers simultaneously—as urged in other columns to-day.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

ON EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS IN JAPAN.

By DR. EDMUND NAUMANN.

"Und haett ich nicht geschuettelt und geruettelt
 "Wie waere diese Welt so schoen?—
 "Wie staenden Eure Berge droben
 "In praechtig-reinem Aetherblau,
 "Haett ich sie nicht hervorgeschoben
 "Zu malerisch-entzueckter Schau!"

Faust,—Part II.

SLOWLY but unceasingly water and fire act on the inorganic nature which surrounds us, transforming, disturbing, and building up anew. Even the weather-hardened rock itself succumbs finally by their untiring labour.

* Won't it? Two or five-tenths of the timber is rent, just as much as money,—and a big rent, too. Ed. J. T.

Thousands and thousands of years elapse before the works of nature are developed in their full grandeur, and hence all inanimate nature seems to us unchangeable. Nevertheless man is often enough witness of destructive calamities, which, breaking on us quickly and unexpectedly, had also sudden and speedy results. Although these convulsions, more or less local, of the earth, may have no real participation in the changes which the surface of the earth undergoes, in our time at least, yet they explain many phenomena, otherwise mysterious, and furnish us with an estimate of the working of the forces of the earth in early ages.

Historical accounts of the geological events of western countries are too meagre and inadequate. The wave of peoples has repeatedly rolled over world-governing Europe, and the same portion of the earth has seen again and again new nations settling there after a hard struggle. In the Far East, on the contrary, the development was peaceable and undisturbed in comparison. Barbarous hordes did not threaten it from without; culture, protected by lasting peace, prospered on an ancient basis, although its bloom was not so beautiful as that of the West. Hence it is explicable that the Japanese accounts of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, although far from complete, compare particularly favourably with those of occidental countries. The following paper will show that such phenomena were extraordinarily numerous in this country. This is well known to be the case in all places which are conspicuous by their volcanoes, and of these Japan has a large number.

The traditions which are collected and discussed here go as far back as the third century before Christ. From this up to the seventh century of the Christian era, however, the records are too limited and uncertain, to be of any value for our purpose. The two most ancient historical works dealing with this period are the *Kojiki* and the *Nihonji*; but there are weighty reasons for doubting the general authenticity of these sources, more especially where dates are concerned.

According to the *Kodaiki*, Fujiyama rose in a single night in the year 286, and at the same time a portion of Omi province sank, and Biwa Lake was formed. So incredible does this whole story sound that it is remarkable that it should have found an entrance into European literature of volcanoes without having encountered any serious opposition. In Siebold's "*Nippon*" there is a copy of an old Japanese chart, accompanied by a translation of the explanatory Japanese text. In the latter it is stated that the island of Ichikuru in Lake Biwa arose in the year 265 B.C., that the lake itself seems to have existed there from the beginning, and that the statement of the *Kodaiki* and some other writings is founded not on fact but on fancy. So the author of this old map, which refers to the time of Jimmu Tennô, was quite correct in putting in the lake of Omi. The Honchô Iishinki says "Fuji mountain and Biwa Lake have existed since the Divine age, as is written in the poems of our ancestors." We see therefore that the story of the *Kodaiki* has received far more credence in Europe than among the Japanese themselves. Modern Geology teaches us that a mountain nearly 12,000 feet in height never could be formed in a single night:—

"Nie war Natur und ihr lobend'fges Fliesen
 "Auf Tag und Nacht und Stunden Angliewien
 "Sie bildet regelnd jeglige Gestalt
 "Und selbst im Grossen ist es nicht Gewalt

It must also be mentioned that it is highly probable that in the reign of the Emperor Kōrei the neighbourhood of Fuji belonged to the Ebi no kuni, or Aino land, and that the Japanese Empire of the fourth century before Christ can hardly have embraced the provinces from which Fuji is to be seen. Thus the real discovery of the mountain by the southern invaders may well have occurred in the third century before Christ.

The legend of the sudden formation of the mountains of Suruga and of the basin of Omi, however, deserves interest in a certain degree. It furnishes a commentary on certain views of Japanese scholars which seem to have descended from most remote times. According to their theories, a fall or depression is the necessary result of an Eruption. They think that the sinking of portions of the earth's crust is inevitable when subterranean masses are thrown up. The author of the "*Idzukaishii*" expresses

his surprise that the volcanic islands of the Idzu sea constantly throw up new matter, and yet at no place can a depression be perceived.

According to the records which have been consulted, only four earthquakes seem to have occurred up to the year 676. These were in 416, 599, 642 and 676. Henceforward the accounts are numerous and minute. An explanation of this circumstance requires consideration of various historical events. In the first place it has to be borne in mind that among the gifts which Japan received from her continental neighbour by the introduction of Buddhism, was a knowledge of astronomical science. According to the Nihonki the Buddhist priest Kwankiu brought over from his native country Patsi (Korea) in 602, astronomical and chronological works. The erection of the first observatory took place in 675, and in 690 the first Calendar was introduced into Japan. Although the great exactness with which the date of the accession of Jimmu Tennô to the throne is given, may excite considerable astonishment, yet we are fortunately in a position to undertake the transposition of Japanese dates which refer to the later times with a remarkable accuracy. The impulse given by the introduction of Buddhism caused arts and sciences to flourish, and people could not have omitted to collect and arrange all that was known about the past, and later on to record events with more accuracy than before. In the years 711 and 720 the above mentioned historical works, the Kojiki and Nihonji, were composed, and to the authors of these we owe our information as to the earliest dates. In the map, attached to this, on which are shown the succession of volcanic Eruptions and Earthquakes, and their synchronism or antichronism with each other, or with other natural phenomena, we have for reasons already given left out all mention of the period before 676. Our collection can by no means be regarded as complete, as will be seen by a glance at the table referred to. With full justice, we mark those periods which are remarkable for the infrequency of the phenomena here treated as real gaps; as their coincidence with political revolutions or warlike enterprises is evident. The records of the twelfth and sixteenth centuries are very meagre. The foundation of the Shôgunate which took place in the twelfth century, could only be accomplished after severe struggles. The chronicler himself heard in the immediate proximity of the Imperial City of Kiôtô the War-trumpet sound, and dropped his pen. Again in the sixteenth century the country was visited by long and severe disturbances, which, as before, brought about a new order of things. It was only after the rebellious princes were subdued by the powerful arm of Hideyoshi, and after China and Corea had been defeated, that Minamoto Iyeyasu could restore that peace to the Empire, which the great Shôgun had the wisdom to strengthen by the precious gift of his wonderful code of laws.

In other respects also, the reader can see what were the great periods of Japanese history, from the information contained in our tables. In most cases they deal chiefly with the centre of spiritual action in the country,—the residence of the ruler. At first we read almost exclusively about earthquakes in Nanto; then after the year 794 when the capital was removed from Yamato to Heian-jo, we hear chiefly of those which occurred in Kioto. In 1186 Minamoto Yoritomo made Kamakura the second capital, and now we hear of the phenomena which took place both at this place and at Kiôtô. Finally Yedo, which in 1603 was elevated by Iyeyasu to be Shôgun's residence, is added to the list. Our informants, therefore, were always in the Imperial palace or in its immediate neighbourhood, and could only hear by accident of the phenomena which were taking place in distant provinces. The following table is therefore to be regarded as incomplete both as regards time and place. From these remarks it will also be clear that the accounts of volcanic eruptions in Japan are more defective than those of earthquakes. The chronicler was at too great a distance from the seat of volcanic activity, and furthermore these eruptions are by no means so devastating as the great seismic shocks.

A particular portion of this paper will show that, as a rule, the records are very detailed. In the cases of earthquakes, the time of the day, and the various shocks are exactly related; the names of the temples, houses &c. which are destroyed frequently find special mention, and even the accompanying phenomena are generally noted.

The Japanese have always been good observers. In their records, one seldom finds direct observations spoiled by their own crude views. It also merits special remark that the people never see an earthquake or eruption without being prepared for it. They seem to observe with the utmost attention the slightest agitation of the forces latent in the earth. The movements of Asamayama have lately caused excitement. Lately the mountain emits no more smoke, and this is taken as a sign that an eruption is imminent. Unscientific foreigners used to consider Fujiyama an extinct volcano. The people themselves are not of this opinion, although they have seen the mountain for more than a century and a half in uninterrupted, harmless repose. During the last months of the past year, the inhabitants of the places around Fuji were much terrified by frequent and violent quakings, and every one dreaded a new and devastating eruption.

The books mentioned in the following list, which have been consulted by us, are partly collected works, partly monographs. The materials for writing the first have chiefly been collected in the capitals of the Empire, and it seems that for a long time particular persons were appointed by the Government for that purpose. Only earthquake Calendars belong to this class; so far as we know there is no complete account of volcanic eruptions in the Japanese literature on the subject. The monographs mentioned hereafter have in many cases been taken from records furnished to the Government. Of the books whose names are given in the second list, there are without doubt many still existing in the interior of the Empire, and it is to be hoped that, in the interest of Science, they have been preserved, in order to afford further evidence of the greatness of the volcanic phenomena which have occurred in historical times in the Eastern Asiatic Archipelago.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A MOST effective illustration of the value of the artificial reservoirs and weirs of which we have written in our leading columns, we find in the following paragraph, from M. Viollet-le-duc's book on Mont Blanc, to which we are indebted for part of the information condensed in our article:—

"We have seen, not once merely, but several times, the "Petit-Nant, which comes down above the hospice of "Nant-Borant, and whose source is about 5,000 feet from "this hospice, in one of those very deep schistose troughs, "swell so considerably, after half-an-hour's storm-rain, "that it swept down in black mud, blocks of rock of four "or five cubic yards in bulk, and the uprooted trunks of "firs, and carried away in a few moments enormous "masses from the banks so as to undermine the timbers of "the bridge, which went some twenty feet beyond those "banks—threatening to destroy the bridge itself, which is "the only approach to the cold Bonhomme. Scarcely "had the rain ceased when the torrent resumed its harmless flow. All this was an affair of a quarter of an hour."

And all this might be easily prevented by the use of the simple appliances we describe.

DR. NAUMANN'S interesting paper on Earthquakes in Japan is supplemented in the original by two appendices; one a list of the authorities consulted, and the other a categorical list of all the earthquakes recorded, from the earliest times mentioned in his text. It will not be possible for us to give these in full, nor would our readers in general thank us, we fancy, for filling in this way five or six pages of this Review: but we will give, next week, a synopsis of the latter appendix, with detailed accounts of such of the special phenomena as are required for the proper elucidation of the learned writer's arguments.

OUR articles on Afforestation having attracted some attention in Hongkong, a correspondent there has been good enough to send us a few particulars of Governor Hennessey's forestry work there. It appears that sixty Chinese gardeners are constantly employed in planting out, in suitable places, young trees of such kinds (some from seed shipped hence) as take kindly to the soil and climate, and which are raised in proper nurseries scientifically tended. Very few, indeed, now remain of the earliest foreign set-

ters on the island, but those who do will remember how it then really deserved its title of the 'Isle of Fragrant Streams'; when, through each little ravine in the hills, one might wander upwards, protected by the cool greenery of luxuriant vegetation, and listen to the brook singing:—

'I come from haunts of coot and hern,
I make a sudden sally,
And sparkle out among the fern,
To bicker down the valley.

'I steal by lawns and grassy plots,
I slide by hazel covers,
I move the sweet forget-me-nots
That grow for happy lovers.

'I murmur under moon and stars
In brambly wildernesses;
I linger by my shingly bars;
I loiter by my cresses.'

but, now, all this is denied to Hongkong residents. 'Men may come and men may go:' but the brook no longer merrily sings. 'I go on for ever.' The little voice is hushed; the woodcutter has murdered the Dryades and the Naiades have wept themselves away. It is refreshing to think that in a few years all this will be restored; and Mr. Hennessey's name should live in history linked with those of John Evelyn, Gilbert White, Jesse, Capability Brown, and other sylvan worthies.

WE have been informed that, for this Hongkong afforestation scheme, considerable quantities of seed have been lately forwarded thither, at the request of the authorities. As much as will furnish a quarter of a million trees has been sent, the varieties being the *sugi*, *hinoki*, and *tsubaki* (the wild, single-flowered camellia.) The first shipment took place about two months ago, the second about three weeks back, and the experiment will naturally be watched with great interest.

THE state of our Law Courts does not admit of our publishing this week No. II. of the 'Japan Times' Law Reports', as we had intended to do. The several cases which are in the lists have been advanced a stage; but one case only is ready for the reporter, and that is not of sufficient proportion of quantity, or of interest, to entitle it to a separate record. It will be fully treated at the proper time; meanwhile we give it brief mention below. The evidence in the second opium-smuggling case against Mr. Hartley is closed, and the case awaits judgment. The charge in this case is founded, as in the first, on the smuggling of the prohibited drug;—but the prosecution seeks to obtain a conviction, by showing that the opium seized is worthless as a medicine, and contends that it is deficient in morphine; and therefore not 'official.'

In the great 'right of way' case:—"Japanese Government *versus* Cope and Mitchell," after several day's hearing, and a final sitting till two in the morning, answers to sixteen questions were pumped out of an exhausted jury; who, in order that there might be no mistake, adopted the novel expedient of illustrating their reasons by a diagram. The number of problems submitted to them for solution must have taken their fancies back to the days of their youth; for their diagram assumed the figure by which school boys delight to represent a gallows, erected in chalk upon a garden door, for the pendulous punishment of a dreaded pedagogue. The defendant Cope has moved for leave to enter judgment for the defendant on the facts found by the jury; and the matter now stands next in the list for argument.

In the case of *Hart versus Herhausen*, Mr. Wilkinson has delivered a judgment of some importance, bearing on the question of the effect of a posterior Act of Parliament, to control the provisions of the Order in Council for China and Japan of 1865. The case came before the Court on a judgment-debtor summons, issued under Sections 130 and 131 of the Rules of Court framed by virtue of that Order, for the examination of the defendant. The sections in question provide that a debtor failing to obey an order, or decree, for payment of money, may be examined as to the circumstances under which he contracted the debt, or incurred the liability, in respect of which judgment was rendered; and as to his ability to make the payment ordered—and provide certain penalties for cases where the

debtor is shown to have dealt improperly with his property. The defendant's counsel contended, that, as the Debtor's Act of 1869 abolished imprisonment for debt and attachment of the person of a debtor, unless he was shown to be, or to have been at some time since the decree, in a position to make the payment ordered; therefore the plaintiff was precluded from enquiring into any matter relating to the dealings by the debtor with his property previous to the decree. (In this case, the subtle distinction that the debtor was dealing with the plaintiff's property, was ignored.) His Honour decided that, although the Debtors' Act was of force within the district of the Supreme Court for China and Japan; yet the sections 130 and 131 of the Rules had not been repealed thereby.

The ingenuity displayed by our bar in taking objections, and the success which occasionally attends some of these efforts, remind us of the case of the 'Dog and Duck,' the moving incidents of which trial, recorded in verse and sung by a witty learned Serjeant now, alas, deceased, served to give zest to the refrain of a song:—"Now always get, A Counsel to defend you!"

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1878.

DEATH.

On the 28th March, 1878, at No. 145, Bluff, ALFRED LAWRENCE TURNER, Esq., Acting Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, aged 32 years.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 29th, 1878.

THE *Tibbs*, with the Marseilles mail of the 10th February, arrived in harbour at noon on the 28th, the *Tanai* left with the homeward mail on the 26th due in London May 13. The usual coasting steamers have arrived and departed and the *City of Tokio* is advertised to sail on the 5th for San Francisco. The *Malacca* with the London-mail of the 15th ulto left Hongkong for this, on the 28th inst. at 4 p.m. For all other particulars, we refer our readers to our Mail Register and Shipping Intelligence.

Death has struck a name from our list of residents, since we wrote last: The Acting Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Mr. Alfred Lawrence Turner, died on the morning of the 28th inst., after a painful illness of many weeks' duration. A young man, and a promising officer of the Bank, his career of usefulness has been 'untimely nipped.' He entered the service, we believe, soon after the establishment of the Corporation, and, rapidly passing through subordinate grades, served with credit as acting manager at more than one of the branches, as also at the Chief Office in Hongkong in the capacity of acting-sub-manager. His social qualities seem to have particularly endeared him to his subordinates, and the sorrow expressed for his loss is more than perfunctory.

The scanty news from Europe which we get by wire keep us still in a most anxious state of uncertainty, and business suffers accordingly. To Englishmen especially, the news of a Declaration of War would be hailed as a relief from what is becoming unbearable suspense. There appears to be no likelihood of Russia receding from the position she has taken up; nor is it indeed, reasonable to expect that she should; and England cannot withdraw her fleet from the Dardanelles, nor consent to recognize the separate Treaty made between Russia and Turkey, without a loss of prestige, even of reputation, the effects of which would be far worse than war. So imminent does it now appear, that both Russian and English men-of-war in harbour are kept constantly in readiness for sea.

Late last week, and during the present, a circular has been going the round of the settlement, inviting the signatures of such residents as consider that a measure of Municipal Reform should be carried into effect, in the direction of restoring control to the

foreign residents themselves. We believe it emanated from the office of our contemporary the *Gazette*, and as a very large number of people have signified their adherence to the principle, a Public Meeting may soon be expected, when a scheme will be proposed. Our own views on the subject have been placed before our readers, and we see no reason at present to change them: the difficulties in the way of getting a Municipal Council like that of Shanghai, purely unofficial, appear to us very great: whereas the success of the mixed official and unofficial system of Kobe has been such as to justify its designers in consenting to extend its benefits to Yokohama; and we think that if this be the boon solicited, there is a fair chance of its being granted. At the same time, as we have said, we are perfectly ready to abandon any pre-conceived ideas of our own in favour of any proposal which will ensure us a change from the existing disgraceful mismanagement. There certainly ought to be no two opinions on the question of finance, and any one who argues that this little settlement cannot be kept in proper order for \$50,000 *per annum* must either be a very poor hand at figures, or have some vested interest in keeping things as they are.

By the way, is it not about time that some of our contemporaries dropped their silly girding at the *Gazette*? Comparisons are proverbially odious, and 'Mrs. Prig,' 'Mrs. Harris' or 'Mrs. Martha Brown' take up little more type in printing, than 'Mrs. Gamp.' Whatever may have been the standing and reputation of the *Gazette* in former times, it is undeniable that it is now—to say the least of it—as well edited, as well printed, as properly conducted, and as accurately informed, as any paper in China or Japan. It has certainly, during the last twelve months, initiated a number of improvements in its commercial, advertising, and general information columns, which its local contemporaries have been eager to imitate; and its leading columns have contained articles on subjects specially interesting to a mercantile community, which have been written with great power and have displayed thorough soundness of view. We have sincerely regretted, often, that we have not had them for our own columns. More than once lately, its proprietors have put themselves at the head of useful movements which would otherwise have languished, (what a boon they have conferred on Yokohama, for instance, by assisting the publication of this Review!) and their action now, in bestirring themselves to get the settlement out of the slough of municipal misgovernment should be greeted with acclamation, not received with a sneer. Of course, there will be a general snarl at this paragraph, intensified probably by a cartoon in *Punch*; but—*Fais ce que dois: advienne que pourra*—and we have a perfect and comfortable confidence that we shall be believed by all whose opinion is worth having, when we say that we should have written exactly as we have done, of any other paper equally deserving and as undeservedly maligned. We cannot see that—because we are under obligations to the *Gazette* which we can only repay by gratitude—we are to be debarred from saying a word in its behalf, when under its present management, it disdains to speak it for itself.

There has been a rather singular dearth of incidents of any kind this week. On Monday, the New Imperial Telegraph establishment was opened at Tokio: but we described what the ceremonial was going to be, in our last, and as that statement was correct, there is no object in repeating it now. We should have been happy to have given a more detailed account of it; had we received a invitation to attend, which we could accept; but the Japanese have yet to learn how to treat the Press with proper courtesy. It is to be regretted that all the other foreign newspapers did not treat the 'invitation' sent to them in the same way as ourselves.

On the same day a more interesting ceremony, a review of the Imperial Guard, was attended by the Mikado, followed by a parade of convalescents from the civil war of last year, who were personally thanked by his Majesty for their devotion, and congratulated on their recovery. The weather was most unfavourable, and the spectacle consequently lost much of its attraction; but the troops turned out in a very workmanlike way, and marched past in fair style. It is reported, by the way, that a change in the tactical system is to be adopted, that of Germany being substituted for the present drill, which is founded on that of the French Army under the Empire.

An advertisement has been staring us in the face during the week which recalls to memory a great disaster—the foundering of the *Nii* in March 1874. Her wreck and cargo, as they lie at the bottom of the sea off Cape Idzu, were sold on the 26th inst. to two separate purchasers, for \$760 altogether. Japanese divers have been long at work upon the wreck, however; a good deal of it has been blown up; and much of the cargo removed by them; so that probably the sum given is not very much under value.

A terrible calamity of a similar nature,—the loss of H. M. S.

training ship *Eurydice* with 400 men, in the West Indies,—is reported by telegraph. As we have no details, we are left entirely to conjecture as to the cause of the accident, but the locality of course suggests that she must have been caught in a tornado: One of her officers, the paymaster, Mr. Frank Pittman, was formerly in charge here of the Navy yard. The *Eurydice* was one of the finest ships ever turned out of an English dock yard, a real model, designed by Admiral Hall, of the *Inconstant* and *Phaeton* class, and we remember that experiments were made with her when she was first built, which went to prove that to capsize her was an impossibility—but some fatal alteration was evidently made in her masting, or ballasting, when she was recommissioned for this cruise, in 1877. The loss of her crew at the present juncture of affairs in Europe is most serious: they were all of the very blossom of the rising generation of British seamen, and this was their final training cruise before being drafted out to different ships in the Navy.

Last week we had a note about the Boat Club; and were glad to be able to congratulate its members on the flourishing condition of their Association: the weather has been favourable during the past week for laying down the landing stage, and we shall soon be able to chronicle the proceedings of the opening night, which is fixed for the 6th proxo. Meanwhile we are glad to see that the Cricket Club has inaugurated the season by holding its annual meeting, at which a return of five dollars per share was made to the scripholders and that a good balance remains in hand. A most sensible proposition was put and carried—introducing lawn-tennis apparatus, without a lawn tennis Club. It is awfully ungallant to say so, of course; but we have always held the belief that lawn-tennis with ladies is only a degree better than battledore and shuttlecock. Tennis proper is certainly—bar boxing—the most violent exercise going, and properly played, with well matched men, lawn-tennis is a remarkably good imitation of it. But to see men, as we have seen them here, pretending to play lawn-tennis without even taking off their coats, and affecting to like it, seems to us such absolutely transparent humbug, that the most remarkable part of the performance is the success with which the players keep countenance.

The few who remain of that fast-thinning band of brothers, the old residents of Yokohama, have welcomed back with cordial pleasure Mr. J. S. Barber, formerly the head of the firm of Ross, Barber and Co., who arrived in the *Glenartney* on the 27th instant, to take charge of the house of Malcolm, Wilcox and Co. Mr. Barber must see such changes in the town since he left it ten years ago, that he will hardly know it again; but he finds no change in the feelings with which he was always regarded by his friends. Does anyone, we wonder, remember a prologue to a theatrical performance in the very early days, in which the name of his firm was of great use in pointing a couplet:—

"And 'twould be heaping Pelion on Ossa,
If Ross and Barber shone in Barbarossa."

Ah! the good old times, when we listened to the chimes at midnight, had a mail once a month, and made money faster than we could spend it!

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such? I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan.

(In process of answer.) B. H.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese?

(Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can he say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosei" in

your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, Mr. Bramsen may be able to do the same for it.

2.—Copper was first coined in Japan, I believe, in the Wadô period (708-715); does Mr. Bramsen know whether the nominal values of the coins made then, and also up to the time of Nobunaga, were restricted to the same denomination as afterward? The Tempô was of course named in the Tempô period (1830-1844).

3.—Can he give any account of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c., I trust that Mr. Bramsen will pardon the liberty I take in addressing myself to him; but if he should ever put a query in "Notes and Queries" which I can answer (which is doubtful), I promise him that I shall do so to the best of my ability.

It may interest coin collectors to know that a collection of copper coins, which consisted of eighty-six specimens; four of which were said to belong to the eighth century of the Christian era, six to the ninth, two to the tenth, two to the sixteenth, thirty-five to the seventeenth, and the remainder to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, was offered for sale a few months ago in Tokiô for twenty *yen*.

X.

Qr. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction. B. A.

NOTES.

NOTE. [Comparative values of money in Japan at various periods.]

Dear Sir,

While acknowledging with many thanks the information kindly furnished, through the medium of your columns, in reply to my queries about the value of money 500 years ago, I must confess that I have been rather puzzled by a statement contained in one of your contributor's notes—viz—that *oban* and *koban* "were for the first time coined by Nobunaga in the period *Ten-shô* (1573 to 1591)."

Is not this contradicted by the following coins? The *Yei-ji koban* or *Hidehira koban*, coined A.D. 745 by Hidehira, Duke of Mutsu, and paid in tribute to the government—(of this piece there were several varieties).

The *Jiye koban*, coined between 1181 and 1183; The *Hori-kawa koban*, current during the reign of the Emperor Horikawa (1086 to 1105). (three varieties);

The numerous *kobans* coined at Odawara under the Hôjô rule;

The *Zen-kô koban* and *Yoshi-mame koban*, current under the Ashikaga rule;

The *Tai-hei koban* coined by Nikki Yoriaki A.D. 1367;

The *Sei-chô* or *Shô-chô koban* coined between 1427 and 1428;

The *Kiyo-raku koban* (1527 to 1530);

The *Yei-shikwan oban*, coined 1548 at Suruga by Imagawa Yoshimoto;

Besides a number of others, whose exact dates I do not know but which are said to have been in circulation before 1550 A.D. e.g. the *Kô-kin koban* and *Takeda bishi koban* (current in Koshû); the *Adzuma koban*; the *Chi-ba Ji-miyo koban* (of which some were marked with crescent moons and some with a number of circles touching internally); the *Koyasu koban* (the most highly ornamented of all the gold coins); the *To-zasa koban* &c. &c.

"X" was certainly misinformed about the date of the *Ken-ji koban*, but has Mr. Bramsen found quite reliable authority for his statement that during the 13th century (and a fortiori—before that era) copper cash only were in

use? If so the author of the 'Times of Taiko' is wrong when he represents Ishikawa (exiled from the Court of Horikawa) as carrying with him some "parcels of gold pieces."

Yours very truly

N. or M.

Yedo, 24th March.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XIII. THE MUSASHI KOBAN.

OF the nobles who were indebted to him, Hidetsugu selected only the most important. Several were absent in the provinces, and of the rest some were at Kiyoto and some at Fushimi, so that by the following evening it was only possible to assemble eight earls, an equal number of Barons and some thirty-four bannerets, nearly all feudatories of the Regent.

Such a meeting of noblemen had not taken place at the palace since the Imperial progress six years before. It was destined also to be the last gathering of the sort that should ever muster within those splendid precincts.

Night had long fallen before the last of the arrivals was announced; one of the summer nights when nature seems to be dreaming of her own beauty. The mysterious moonlight, peeping furtively under pines and among rockeries, shrank from the monstrous and awesome shapes its touch created, and nestling for a time, in its slow ascent, among the soft foliage of the bamboos, till each feathery tress glowed like the spray of a crystal cascade, crept at last over the bosom of the lake, where it lingered contentedly among the shadowy memories pictured in the water's placid depths. It was a time to make age melancholy or youth mirthful, and from the tea-houses on the banks of the distant river and the gondolas that floated down the stream, the notes of a hundred guitars and a thousand voices of song and laughter blended into one deep, joyous hum, that stole across the palace gardens and into the very presence of the solemn conclave within.

Hidetsugu had dismissed every officer of his household; not even a page remained at his side, and this, added to the lateness of the hour and the imposing nature of the meeting, filled those present with wonder and anxiety. None had even ventured to conjecture the purpose that had summoned him, and amid the profoundest silence, the Minister, his face pale and his voice tremulous, addressed the fifty nobles:—

"My Lords, I must apologize for the sudden and peremptory nature of my summons, and thank you for responding to it so promptly. And first let me ask you to forget that I am Taiko's adopted son and the Prime Minister to whose safeguard His Majesty the Emperor is committed. I wish for the moment to lay aside all this, and address you as a friend speaking to the friends that aided me to support the cares of government during the three years of my Regency. My Lords, the hopes I was taught to foster when I first became Minister have ceased to exist. If I seem to tell you this with any reluctance, I pray you to believe that it is caused by shame for those who have deceived me, rather than regret for myself who have been deceived. Since the birth of Hideyori, I have been so oppressed by the shadow of a harsh autocracy, so harassed by vexatious and humiliating inquisition, that finding myself still submissive, I begin to ask whether men call me base or patient. But the end has come, and it finds me neither able nor anxious to escape. For under the pretext of obtaining funds to defray the expenses of the Chinese embassy's reception, an official enquiry is about to be made into the state of this treasury. I need not remind you that a large deficit exists, nor explain to you the cause of its existence. Neither need I tell you that there are reserves at both Fushimi and Ozaka, from which money, were money really needed, could be easily and with propriety drawn. The Regent and his counsellors are not proceeding unadvisedly, and that their reasons do not lie on the surface of their actions is perhaps fortunate for the respect men owe them. This financial audit must inevitably lead to my disgrace, for I will never implicate you to justify myself. The money indeed was at my disposal, no less than this palace is

and to what better purpose could it have been applied than the relief of those who constitute the props and bulwarks of the Government? But I am prejudged. The Regent desires my overthrow for Hideyori's sake, and seeing this, my course would be clear if filial duty only were to be consulted. But my country too has its claims. Hideyori is still a baby. Could I reasonably hope that his majority might find Taiko still surviving, every wish would be satisfied; but this is impossible, and with bitter regrets I foresee a long interregnum of anarchy and bloodshed. To obey my father then, I must be a traitor to my country, or if true to my country, I must resist my father. In this dilemma, expedient, I confess, fails me, and filial instincts prevail. I am determined to make myself alone responsible for the deficit in the treasury, and then, returning to His Majesty the insignia of my office, I shall seek to forget injustice and the caprice of power in some monastic retreat. It was to explain this to you, whose good opinions I value, no less than to bid you a last farewell, that I summoned you here to-night."

Appealing to many sentiments, distinct yet inexplicit, gentle yet passionate, this speech found its audience fearful and left them faltering. These, filled with shame at the thought that a kindness done to themselves should induce another's ruin, revolved only some means of restoring the borrowed money; those, influenced in part by Hidetsugu's sophistry, in part by their own convenience, began to cast up the chances of substituting their benefactor for his persecutor, while not a few contrasted the unaffected nobility of this Minister with the vulgar self-assertion of the upstart Taiko.

But none of these opinions for the moment found expression. Each of the nobles sat with bowed head, expecting his neighbour to speak, and Hidetsugu, too proud to supplement his statement, awaited the earliest words of reply in such painful suspense that he could almost have chosen to prolong the silence, for instinct told him that the many currents of feeling his speech had excited, would certainly set towards the first outlet they found.

Among the fifty nobles however, there was one who deciphered the truth by the light of his own devotion to Taiko and his knowledge of Hidetsugu's dissipated life. H'totsz Yanagi, Earl of Saijo, turned and addressed the meeting with an assured distinctness that afforded a strong contrast to the Minister's nervous ambiguity.

"My Lords," he said, "our duty is, I think, very plain in this matter. If we owe any respect to His Highness the Regent or gratitude to His Excellency the Minister, we must save the one from being the dupe and the other the victim of false advisers, for I suppose that none of us will attribute this audit to the Regent's unbiased action. The danger is fortunately as easily averted as it is distinct. We have only to return the money His Excellency so kindly lent us, and which in such a crisis we shall certainly find means to collect."

Freed from all the glamour of sentiment and sophistry, the truth sounded so simple and strong, that when H'totsz Yanagi ceased speaking, every one of the assembled nobles gladly signified his acquiescence. Several indeed, declaring their desire to take steps for the collection of the money without a moment's delay, asked permission to retire at once, but Hidetsugu detained them. He was overwhelmed with disappointment and mortification. All the deeper import of his words had been tacitly put aside, all the carefully adjusted pathos of his appeal had not excited a single expression of sympathy or affection, and this discovery of the absolute nullity of his personal influence was perhaps bitterer to him than even the lapse of those hopes whose strength he now first appreciated.

"I thank you, my Lords," he said, "for the aid you offer, but you will oblige me more by not urging its acceptance. It can only bring a temporary relief, and would deprive me of a pleasant memory I desire if possible to preserve. I am, as I have said, prejudged, and I had rather my condemnation were based on a deed of benevolence, than on some imputation too cunningly devised to be completely rebutted. My object in lending was to help, not to embarrass by a demand of sudden repayment. Let things, therefore, I pray you remain as they are, since I am but one to suffer, while you, and those whom the collection of this money might distress, are many; and give me rather in return the assurance that after I have ceased to be your Minister, I shall still retain your esteem."

"Your Excellency asks for what you already possess," said Tautsu, Earl of Iga, "and at the same time would prohibit us the only means we have of in some sort proving our gratitude. The one right and honorable course has been pointed

out by the Earl of Saijo, and though your Excellency's generosity induces you to adopt a different view, I am persuaded that in the end you would little value the devotion of those who failed to follow H'totsz Yanagi's suggestion."

This speech was confirmed by universal acclaim. Hidetsugu scarcely found it possible to obtain a hearing for further protests, and seeing that the meeting had determined to give his denial the interpretation of mere generous reserve, he at last reluctantly held his peace and suffered the nobles to take their leave.

These were the men he had counted to see in the vanguard of his allies when the lists were marked for the final struggle. These were the men! He watched them one by one as they disappeared from his presence and his hopes, till their places were occupied by solitude and the pallid moonlight alone. He had tasted the bitter and the sweet, had looked in the face of pleasure and of pain, but never till that moment had he experienced or conceived the agony of utter loneliness. And yet the thick palpable darkness that, in this extinction of his hopes, seemed to flow in from all sides and blind him irremediably, was less terrible than the aspect of his haughty self-respect thrown down and writhing under the shame of mistaken confidence and abject failure; so that in the bitterness of his soul, he would gladly have exchanged all that remained to him in the world for the ability to overwhelm the memory of his humiliation in some loud and crashing catastrophe.

Such tumults do not pass away from the heart like the simple modulations of sorrow or joy. They leave behind a vibration that suddenly and at unlooked for moments swells out into harsh discord with the happy moods of life, changing sounds of pleasure and delight into echoes of remorse and misery. A mischief frequently of saddest sequel; for to sensitive minds this destruction of nature's rhythm is so intolerable, and get so beyond the help of reason, that instinct often creates, as remedy, some strange and shocking conception, some image of death and oblivion, which for the moment indeed steps in between sense and memory, but which, though in its early days a mere empty sound, a random note of fancy, recurs with more and more strength and frequency, until it grows at last into the monotone of the murderer's or the suicide's mania.

Shrinking from the reality of existence, Hidetsugu sat, hour after hour, motionless and apparently unconscious, till the shadow of the eaves had crept over half the silvery face of the lake, and the voices of life and joy, passing far into the distance, had made room for the silence of a summer night, a soft, dreamy silence, broken only by the boom of the beetle, or, at times, the weird bark of a fox.

Pages and chamberlains, coming in, watched their master with a feeling of awe and uneasiness, but no one ventured to disturb him, until at midnight, after a whispered conference with his fellows, one of the pages made his way to the ladies' apartments, and presently the sounds of a harp lightly touched reached Hidetsugu's ear. The result showed how well his servants understood the Minister's disposition, for almost the very first note roused him from his reverie, and half an hour later this capricious nobleman was dancing and singing as though life had no aim but happiness.

But the nobles, who, if they had availed themselves of Hidetsugu's complaisance at a moment of unusual financial embarrassment, caused by the war imposts, were yet for the most part in a condition to make speedy restitution, issued the necessary orders that very night to their comptrollers and agents, so that in a few days the deficit in the Treasury had diminished to a merely nominal sum.

Nor did this satisfy those—and they were not a few—whose friendship for the minister reached beyond the solution of his present difficulties. The Earls of Iga and Yetchiu visited the monitors, and describing the circumstances of the meeting, entreated them not to rest till they had dissipated the treasonable feelings Hidetsugu evidently harboured.

Kimura and Tajima therefore hastened to the palace, determined to offer a last protest, and one which should at least run no risk of failure from lack of force. Scarcely noticing Hidetsugu's pallor, and the traces of mental suffering his face showed, Sir Tajima reproached him in the plainest language for the policy he had adopted in his interview with the nobles. "We can no longer believe," he said, "that your Excellency's motives in making these loans was charitable, nor can we doubt that the ruling principle of your present conduct is treason. You occupy a position beyond which the ambition of man ought

not to reach, and yet by your own want of judgment you assist those who seek to deprive you of that position, and obstruct those whose aim is to preserve it to you. Which does your Excellency consider the more culpable—subjecting the nobles to the slight inconvenience of returning what they have borrowed, or exciting them to rebellion against their master and your father? If your Excellency finds any difficulty in determining, it has not been so with the nobles, of whom some are hastening to discharge their obligations lest they should be involved in your disloyalty, and the rest, because pity for your errors has been added to their friendship. Be advised then by their example, and for your children's if not for your own sake. There is still time, there is always time, to turn back from the path of evil, and many have won more praise by repentance than by a blameless life."

"Tajima," replied Hidetsugu, "if I do not adopt your advice, it is because I know you misinterpret my motives. So far from bearing, the Regent ill-will, I would gladly give him my life to-morrow if he required it. It is true that he allows himself to be misled by false reports and slanders: it is true that, impelled by a love of ostentation and a thirst for fame, ill becoming his old age and his humble origin, he has sacrificed the lives and squandered the treasures of thousands of his countrymen in a useless war beyond the seas, instead of seeking to secure for the empire the peace and rest it so much needed after years of internal trouble. But all this is as nothing compared to the infatuation which prevents him from foreseeing the anarchy and confusion that must accompany Hideyori's minority if I am removed. These dangers alone disquiet me, and if any reliable plan of averting them can be found, I will be the first to adopt it, even should it involve my own resignation. With this object I sought to induce the nobles, not to revolt, as you say, but to make some representation by which the Regent might be convinced of his errors. 'These are my true sentiments,' continued Hidetsugu solemnly, taking a sword from the alcove and placing it with its hilt towards Sir Tajima, "and if you still doubt my loyalty, with this blade deprive me, I entreat you, of the power to injure the Regent or my country; but if you believe, help me in my good purpose, instead of obstructing me by suspicion and accusation."

"If after this statement of your Excellency's views the monitors still refuse to support your patriotic aims, they must not be surprised though men mistake their so-called devotion to the Regent for selfish timidity," said Kumagaya, the vice-comptroller, who since his mission to the palace two months before had been a constant visitor of the Minister's.

"Kumagaya," replied Sir Kimura sternly, "we are content to incur greater risks than that. A thousand fair words are to one true deed as the snapping to the joining of a hair. When the Minister has purified his private life, we will believe in the sincerity of his patriotism. How can he hope to command men's esteem or obtain their confidence if in spite of duty and promise he has not the moral strength to part with one woman amongst a score. The action he has taken about Tarao's daughter is not unknown to us and it has banished our last hope of saving him."

"Be it so," said Hidetsugu. "I accept the challenge whatever be the cost. Let the result prove my truth and your loyalty." And with these words he dismissed the monitors, little knowing that it was the last time these faithful men should ever unite their voices in his behalf.

These events—the assembly of the nobles, Hidetsugu's attempted treason and the subsequent repayment of the loans—remained entirely unknown at the Regent's Court, and Ishida, never doubting that a large deficit still existed in the Treasury, devoted all his energies to accelerating the despatch of the Commission of Examination. At the last moment, however, he saw himself threatened with a complete failure, for Taiko chose as Commissioner, at his own request, the Chief Marshal, Nagamasa Earl of Seta, who was not only a friend of the Minister, but also a prudent, peace-loving old officer, very capable of conducting the investigation in such a way as to avoid exposure or complication under every circumstance.

Immeasurably mortified by a check that repulsed all his influence and resources, Ishida was fain to content himself with an attempt to neutralize Nagamasa's action by attaching to him one Fukuhara in the capacity of teller for the sum to be transferred to Fushimi—a remedy more sanguine than certain, for though Fukuhara was furnished with the most stringent injunctions to be present at the examination

of the Treasury, the possibility of his obedience must depend entirely on Nagamasa's complaisance.

The appointed day arrived and the Commission set out a little after sunrise. The duty to be performed was of a very tedious nature: first, the verification of the whole reserve fund, and then the counting and withdrawal of the three hundred thousand riyos required. But even while foreseeing the delay all this must involve, Ishida resolved to await the result at the Regent's castle, in obedience partly to his own keen anxiety, partly to his principle of entrusting to others no portion of his enterprises but their history.

Nagamasa must either report the whole deficit or conceal it altogether. He could not adopt any medium course. In the latter case the end might be still long deferred, but in the former, Hidetsugu's downfall was immediately certain. Neither policy nor partiality could save him, and at this thought Ishida passed from the pain of suspense to the ecstasy of anticipation. But what would be the fashion of his fall? Degradation and banishment, or a traitor's death? A traitor's death involving the execution of all his household and therefore of—. Impossible! Whence had this frightful conception suddenly sprung up? Had not such a contingency always existed, and had it not been contemplated and provided for? Surely it had, and yet from some cause it presented itself now with a persistency and power that divested it of all hypothesis. Could it be that, like some senseless insect weaving webs which imprison itself while entangling its enemies, his plots, too sure and comprehensive, would at the last defy their author, and rob him of the jewel whose lustre he had pursued, till, becoming the one and only light of his life, all around and beyond it was darkness and gloom? Pshaw! A mere chimera; a device of fancy to make the result sweeter! There could be no real difficulty in saving Chika, whatever was her master's fate. She was but one amongst forty: a unit insignificant and unnoted. "Unnoted," he repeated to himself, "yes, surely unnoted, but"—and a sudden fire blazed up into his brain, for in an instant the phantom his instinct had felt approaching stood before him, palpable and appalling.

Chika's name had been officially mentioned to the Regent and Hidetsugu's excesses ascribed in great part to her influence. Her fate was therefore inseparably bound up with his, and if he died, she must die too.

Oh! miserable end of a life-long effort and hope; bitter beginning of deathless remorse and regret! Strange and incredible, he had kept his gaze so firmly fixed on the goal, that this abyss in the way had utterly escaped his notice. He could not frame any scheme to avoid it, for always when he seemed to be approaching some expedient, the terrible alternative that failure involved would burst in upon his thoughts and scatter them in confusion and horror. So, devising and despairing, struggling and succumbing, he passed the long hours of a day that was destined to find many a parallel in the sequel of his life.

About two hours after sunset, the tramp of horses' feet and the monotonous cadence of coolies' voices heralded the return of the commission. Ishida, veiling his excitement as best he could, uncertain what issue he now desired, but always cursing his own want of providence, moved to the vestibule, and saw by the glare of numerous pine torches that illumined the court-yard, a band of men in the act of depositing six large cases carefully fastened and distinguished by a government flag attached to each of their bearing-poles. The treasure then had come, but what of the deficit?

Preceded by two lamp-bearers, a man separated himself from the crowd and approached the vestibule. It was the Earl of Seta; moving so calmly and with such vexatious deliberation. Detaching his sword from his girdle, he handed it to a servant and approached Sir Ishida.

"You have had a fatiguing day, I fear," said the Baron with a bow.

"Yes," replied Nagamasa. "I had almost thought of deferring my report till to-morrow, but the Regent may be anxious. Do you know whether I can see him at once?"

"I should think so," answered Ishida, not trusting himself to ask any questions, but conjecturing much from the Earl's composure. "If you allow me, I will accompany you," and the two noblemen took their way to the Regent's room.

Taiko was sitting reading. He looked very old and insignificant, for with his head bowed over his book, the one feature that redeemed his vulgar, ill-favoured face was concealed. But what a change when he closed his book and looked up at his visitors! An eye so luminous with genius

and resolution that of those who met it, some were dazzled and the rest fascinated. One saw no more the large mouth and heavy jaw; the short, flat nose and high cheek-bones; the undignified head and diminutive stumpy figure; but only the fearless general and arrogant dictator, the meteor that had flashed suddenly from the veriest depths of obscure serfdom into the zenith of rule and renown.

He acknowledged his visitors' obeisance and waited in silence to hear Nagamasa's report. Ishida remarked that his face, unusually pallid and care-worn exhibited less interest than lassitude as he turned it towards the Commissioner.

"In pursuance of your Highness' orders," said Nagamasa, "I have to-day performed the examination of the Treasury at the Palace of Pleasure. The amount I was instructed to transfer to your Highness' private chest, namely three hundred thousand riyos, being deducted, there remains in the coffers at Kiyoto,"—here Nagamasa, untying a silk wrapper he carried in his hand, took from it a paper which he proceeded to unfold and examine with a leisurely formality that inflamed Ishida's impatience almost beyond endurance—"there remains in the coffers at Kiyoto," he repeated, "the sum of two hundred and eighty five thousand five hundred and twenty riyos."

With all his self-possession, Ishida could not restrain a start so violent that it elicited from the Regent a glance of astonishment, and from Nagamasa a smile half amused, half derisive.

"So that," said Taiko "the total sum you found in the Treasury amounts to—?"

"Five hundred and eighty five thousand five hundred and twenty riyos," replied Nagamasa, presenting the paper he carried to the Regent.

"Is that correct, Sir Ishida?" demanded Taiko.

"Perfectly correct, your Highness. It is the exact sum the Treasury contained at the time the palace was handed over to His Excellency, the Minister," replied Ishida with a feeling of relief that astonished himself. Almost unconsciously he had so associated Chika's fate with this report, that for the moment entirely oblivious of the defeat his schemes had sustained, and the discredit his false representations must entail, he only saw himself acquitted of his love's murder.

Taiko remained for a short time buried in thought, and then suddenly asked:—

"In what form is the money you have brought, Nagamasa?"

"In gold coins, large and small, your Highness," replied the Earl with astonishment.

"I should like to see some of the smaller parcels," said Taiko. "Will you be so good as to have a few brought in. And if possible," he added as Nagamasa was leaving the room, "select those that look newest."

In a few moments two men entered carrying a tray, upon which were spread some half score rouleaux carefully sealed and stamped. Taiko chose a packet at random, and cutting it open, examined the contents minutely. Apparently not finding what he sought, he subjected another and yet another to a similar scrutiny, selecting at last from the third a piece which he handed to Ishida, saying:—

"What do you make out this coin to be, Ishida?"

"A Musashi Koban," replied Ishida, who saw at once by the stamp that the piece was one of a number struck four years before.

"With that coin in your hand then," continued the Regent, "you might be disposed to supplement the report Nagamasa brings."

"Your Highness," said Ishida, and though he spoke in a low reluctant tone, each of his words sounded strangely sonorous and explicit to his own ears, "I should feel obliged to add that the reserve fund was lodged in the palace Treasury seven months before the issue of this coin."

(To be continued in our next)

EXTRACTS.

THE HONGKONG RACES Feb. 28th, March 1st—3rd.

[We give the following brief record of these races, for convenience of future reference and comparison by our Yokohama sportsmen.]

First Day, Feb. 28th.

1. THE WONG-NEI-CHONG STAKES. Six starters.

Temptation, 11st. 1lb. 1. *Mr. Toots*, 10st. 12lbs. 2. *Sambroco*, 10st. 12lb. 3.

Half-a-mile. 1 min. 6½ sec.

2. THE COLONIAL STAKES. Three started *Warlock* pulled up. *Boomerang*, 10st. 7lbs. 1. *Dynamite*, 10st. 7lbs. 2. One mile. 3 min. 14 sec.

3. THE ASHLEY CUP. Five started.

Scylla, 10st. 2lbs. 1. *Black Satin*, 11st. 1lb. 2. *Scud*, 10st. 9lbs. 3. One mile. 2 min. 22½ sec.

4. THE HONGKONG DERBY. Seven started.

White Velvet, 10st. 7lbs. 1. *Spurs*, 10st. 7lbs. 2. *White Lily*, 10st. 7lbs. 3. *Bay Rum*, 10st. 7lbs. 4. One mile-and-a-half. 3 min. 41 sec.

5. THE FOCHOW CUP. Four started.

Egmont, 11st. 11lbs. 1. *Jamboree*, 10st. 9lbs. 2. *Cassacou*, 11st. 4lbs. 3. *Smike*, 11st. 1lb. 4. Two miles. 5 min. 3½ sec.

6. THE GARRISON CUP. Three started.

Claymore, 10st. 6lbs. 1. *The Nob*, 10st. 6lbs. 2. *Boomerang*, 10st. 6lbs. 3. One mile and a half. 3 min 15. 4.5 sec.

7. THE VALLEY STAKES. Twelve started.

Martingale, 10st. 9lbs. 1. *Black Velvet*, 11st. 1lb. 2. *Ariel*, 10st. 12lbs. 3. One mile. 2 min 25. 4. 5 sec.

8. THE SLASHERS CUP. Seven started.

Bay Rum, 10st. 12lbs. 1. *Fiasco*, 11st. 3lbs. 2. *Whipcord*, 11st. 1lb. 3. One mile and a quarter. 3 min. 2½ sec.

9. THE CANTON CUP. Eleven started.

Allendale, 11st. 1lb. 1. *Twinkle*, 10st. 12lbs. 2. *White Velvet*, 11st. 4lbs. 3.

Three quarters of a mile. 1 min. 44½ secs.

Second day. March 1st.

1. THE SCURRY STAKES. Six started.

Allendale, 11st. 1lb. 1. *Cockchafer*, 11st. 1lb. 2. *Quicksilver*, 11st. 4lbs. 4. Three quarters of a mile. 1 min. 41 sec.

2. THE GERMAN CUP. Seven started.

Scylla, 10st. 12lbs. 1. *Suavita*, 11st. 1lb. 2. *Jamboree*, 10st. 9lb. 3. Two miles. 4 min 46. 4.5 sec.

3. THE NAVY PLATE. Four started.

Whipcord, 11st. 1lb. 1. *White Velvet*, 11st. 4lbs. 2. *White Lily*, 10st. 9lbs. 3. *Allendale*, 11st. 1lb. 4. One mile. 2 min. 19 sec.

4. THE PARSEE CUP. Three started.

The Nob, 10st. 6lbs. 1. *The Babe*, 10st. 13lbs. 2. *Boomerang*, 10st. 10lbs. 3. One mile and a half. 3 min. 10 sec.

5. THE BANKER'S PLATE. Six started.

Temptation, 11st. 1lb. 1. *Scylla*, 10st. 12lbs. 2. *Black Satin*, 11st. 1lb. 3. One mile. 2 min. 15 sec.

6. THE BROKER'S CUP. Eight started.

Ariel, 10st. 12lbs. 1. *Deron*, 10st. 10lbs. 2. *Black Velvet*, 11st. 1lb. 3. One mile and a quarter. 2 min. 59 sec.

7. THE STAND PLATE. Three started.

Claymore, 11st. 10lbs. 1. *The Nob*, 11st. 0lb. 2. *Newstead*, 11st. 10lbs. 3. From the two mile post, once round and in. 2 min. 14. 2. 5 sec.

8. THE TOWN PLATE

Bay Rum, 11st. 5lbs. 1. *Suavita*, 11st. 1lb. 2. *Fiasco*, 10st. 12lbs. 3. One mile and a half. 3 min. 35 sec.

Third day. March 2nd.

1. THE SUBSCRIPTION CHALLENGE CUP. Six started.

Fiasco, 10st. 12lbs. 1. *Spurs*, 11st. 1lb. 2. *The Doctor*, 11st. 1lb. 3. Two miles. 4 min. 46½ sec.

2. THE ST LEGER CUP. Six started.

Black Satin, 10st. 8lbs. 1. *Spuray*, 10st. 12lbs. 2. *Scud*, 10st. 10lbs. 3. One mile. 2 min. 15 sec.

3. THE HANDICAP PLATE. Two started.

Claymore, 12st. 0lb. 1. *The Nob*, 10st. 7lbs. 2. One mile and a quarter.

4. THE LADIES' PURSE. Eleven started.

Ariel, 10st. 8lbs. 1. *Patience*, Catch 2. *Sambroco*, 10st. 11lbs. 3. Once round. Two min. 3 sec.

5. THE KEECHONG CUP. Four started.

Egmont, 11st. 1lb. 1. *Suavita*, 11st. 1lb. 2. *Cassacou*, 11st. 4lbs. 3. *Fiasco*, 10st. 12lbs. 4. Twice round and in. 5 min. 36½ sec.

6. THE VICTORIA PLATE.

Warlock, 11st. 2lbs. 1. *Newstead*, 11st. 0lb. 2. *The Babe*, 10st. 7lbs. 3. One mile.

7. THE CONSOLATION STAKES. Twelve started.

Spurs, 1. Sunbeam, 2. Spray, 3.

Catch weights. Once round. 1 min. 59 sec.

8. THE CHAMPION STAKES. Five started.

Scylla, 10st. 12lbs. Temptation, 11st. 11lb. Bay Rum, 10st. 11lb.

One mile and a half. 3 min. 30½ sec.

Fourth day. March 3rd.

1. THE SCYLLA CUP. Four started.

Spray, 11st. 2lbs. 1. Scul, 10st. 13lbs. 2. Bravo 10st. 12lbs. 3. Presto, 10st. 12lbs. 0.

One mile. Two min. 22½ sec.

2. THE VISITORS' CUP. Five started.

Black Velvet, 11st. 4lbs. 1. Devon, 11st. 2. Paunce, 11st. 3.

One mile. 2 min. 27½ sec.

3. THE TEMPTATION CUP. Five started.

Jambaree, 10st. 9lbs. 1. Casseco, 10st. 4lbs. 2. Sunbeam, 10st. 9lbs. 3.

Mile and a half. 3 min. 44 sec.

4. THE WHITE VELVET CUP. Three started.

White Lily, 11st. 7lbs. 1. Cockshuf, 10st. 10lbs. 2. Quicksilver, 11st. 3.

Mile and a half. 3 min. 53 sec.

5. A NATIVE SCRAMBLE. WINNERS ONLY. Five started.

Scylla, 1. Temptation, 2. Allendale, 3

Catch weights. Once round.

6. A NATIVE SCRAMBLE. BEATEN PONIES. Seven started.

Scul, 1. Spray, 2. Beauty, 3.

Catch weights. Once round.

DULCISSIMA! DILECTISSIMA!

A PASSAGE IN THE LIFE OF AN ANTIQUARY.

(From Macmillan's Magazine.)

"Come, my dears," said I, looking in upon the room where my children were engaged in their various avocations; "come and see what a very interesting acquisition I have got to my collection of antiquities. It is the remains of a little Roman girl just discovered close to the place where the foundations of the Roman villa were turned up last summer; and it seems very probable that this little girl was a daughter of the house. Here is the glass jar—a more elegant and beautiful one than I have ever before seen used for the purpose—which contains her ashes; here is the lamp to light her on her last dark journey; here are the little ornaments she used to wear—mark especially this exquisitely enamelled fibula; here are her little shoes all quaintly studded with brass nails."

"O what funny shoes!" exclaimed one; "there must have been very bad roads in those days, when even little girls wore shoes studded with nails like that."

"On the contrary," said I, "the Romans were the first road-makers in the world; but never mind that now, here is the stone tablet which records her history, and a very interesting one it is."

D M

LVC. METELLAE

FILIOI. DVLCISS. DILECTISS.

VIX. ANN. VI.

"The letters D M at the top stand for *Dis Manibus*, something like," said I, with a free translation suited to family comprehension, "our 'Sacred to the Memory of.' The inscription then reads thus: 'Sacred to the memory of Lucia Metella, a little daughter most sweet, most tenderly beloved. She lived six years.' Observe that the Romans always, as Dr. Bruce remarks, avoided the mention of death; they tell us how long a person lived, never when he died. But is it not interesting," I went on, "to find more than a thousand years ago, and among a stern and warlike people like the Romans, these little touches of family tenderness and love?"

"O how very interesting! What a charming acquisition! How excited Dr. Harris (Dr. Harris was the antiquary of the district next in repute to myself) will be when he sees it!" were the various parting remarks made by my auditors, as they scampered back to their ordinary employments.

All but one. My Lily, my youngest, the apple of my eye, still stood, her fair head resting on her slender arms, gazing in silence, her lips slightly parted, a tear trembling in each soft blue eye, upon the relics of the little Roman girl. At last she spoke—

"Papa," she said, "this little girl was just the same age that I am."

"Yes, my darling," I said, "that is so; and moreover," I added, as a playful diversion to the child's gloom, "both your names began with L—another coincidence."

But the thought that was in the child's heart was too deep for playfulness. After a pause she spoke again in pleading tones—

"Dear papa," she said, "it seems so pitiful for this poor little girl to lie here among all these queer things."

"My darling," said I, "these queer things, as you call them, are Roman things, such as this little girl was accustomed to see around her every day during her lifetime. Indeed, many of them came from the villa of which it seems very probable that she was the daughter."

"But dear papa," she said, "You would not like me, when I am gone, to be laid out like a curiosity, and have strangers come and

examine the little things I used to be fond of, and remark what funny shoes I had."

"Well—but, my dear child," said I, "what would you do with her?"

"I would bury her," she said, with childish seriousness, "in the garden, beneath the weeping ash, where good old Cato and my dear little dicky and Willy's white rabbit are buried. And—and," she added, in a lower voice, "I would add upon the stone, if there is room, 'Suffer little children to come unto me.'"

"My darling," I said, "I think all that would be a little incongruous; but I'll tell you what we might do," I went on, as a device occurred to me, which I thought might soothe the feelings of the child, "you shall gather from time to time fresh flowers to lay upon her as she lies, and then, if her poor little spirit can look down upon this world, she will see that, though a thousand years have passed, one dear little English girl still watches over her with tenderness and love."

"O yes," she said, brightening at the idea, "I think she would like that. I will gather fresh snowdrops for her now, and then when summer comes again I will change them for violets."

"When summer comes again!" A sudden pang of foreboding shot through my heart as the dear child spoke. She too was most sweet—she too was most tenderly beloved. But we were not without our fears on her account, and anxious whispers had passed between my wife and myself respecting her. But I cast aside the fears, as presently she returned, eager in her little work of love, with the snowdrops she had gathered, and, sitting down by my side as I was engaged in making out the maker's name upon the vase, she wove them with deft fingers into a pretty wreath, which done, she reverently laid it in its place, and hand-in-hand we left the room together.

The next morning after breakfast I had a considerable amount of congenial work to do. In the first place there was a full and detailed account of these interesting discoveries for the County Society of which I was President, then a more condensed report for the Society of Antiquaries, of which I was a Fellow, various questions of detail had to be examined and elucidated, and in the course of the morning an artist was to come up to take photographs of all these rare and beautiful objects. While I was thus engaged, my wife entered the room with a troubled countenance.

"I am very uneasy," she said, "about dear Lily; she talks in such a strange way about a little girl in white that appeared to her last night. Of course it's all imagination, but I am afraid it looks as if there was something not quite right with her."

"We must have it looked to immediately," I replied, gravely; "perhaps we ought to have had some better advice before. I will send off at once to London for Dr. S—, and as the distance is not great, we may have him with us this evening. In the meantime, will you send Lily to me, and let me hear what she has to say?"

"Now, my darling," I said, as Lily entered the room, "come and tell papa all about it."

She climbed upon my knee, threw her arms about my neck, and hiding her face against my breast, as is sometimes the wont of children when they have something grave to relate, she went on—

"I fell asleep, you know, papa dear, with my thoughts full of this poor little girl. I awoke in the night with a trouble, I could scarcely tell what, up in my mind. When I looked up, I saw standing by my bedside a little girl dressed all in white, and pale—oh! so pale. She held in her hand a wreath of snowdrops like the one that I had made, and looking at me with a mournful expression, but still very kindly, she stretched forth her hand as if to hand me back the wreath. When I looked again, she had disappeared."

I reasoned for some time with the child, trying to persuade her that what she fancied she had seen was only the result of her own excited imagination; but I could clearly see that though her deference to me prevented her from disputing anything I said, her belief in the reality of what she had seen remained unshaken. I saw how deeply she felt pained that the loved daughter of a thousand years ago should be treated so differently to our loved ones of to-day, and I resolved that, great as the sacrifice was, it should not stand in the way of the happiness, and perhaps the health, of my beloved child.

So at last I said to her, "Well now, my darling, just tell me what you think should be done, and what this little girl would like if she could tell us."

She burst into tears, flung her arms round my neck, and sobbed out—

"O! dear papa, I know you are so fond of it."

"My darling," I said, "all the antiquities in the world are as nothing—nothing compared to my dear little girl's peace of mind."

"O, dear papa," she said, through her tears, "how can I ever, ever love you enough!"

"My darling," said I, "I know you love me as I love you. But now, what is it you think this little girl would like?"

"I think that what she wants is to be laid in her grave in peace."

"And so it shall be," I replied; "and it shall be done at once."

So we dug a grave in the corner of the garden where all the departed pets of the family were laid, and had it carefully lined with flat stones like a miniature vault, and therein we two—the puzzled gardener looking on—reverently laid the young Roman girl, with all her little treasures disposed around her, filled in the earth, and set up the stone tablet at the head.

We had scarcely finished our task when a well-known form was seen stalking up the avenue, and Lily, touching my hand in a little tremor, whispered—

"O papa! Doctor Harris!"

Dr. Harris was the vice-president of the society of which I was president, an ardent antiquary, and in the main a very good fellow. But he was one of those men whose excessive vitality sometimes gives an appearance of roughness to their manner. I knew full well that the sensitive nature of my little girl made her rather shrink from his somewhat boisterous advances; and I had a pretty shrewd guess that poor Dr. Harris, glaring over the remains with his portentous spectacles, was in the mind's eye of the child when she made her appeal on Lucia's behalf. He was, moreover, a man utterly destitute of sentiment, and in fact the last person we should have liked to come upon us in our present employment. I advanced to meet him, intending to explain it to him privately. But as he approached, he hallooed out with all the force of his lungs—"Lucky dog! I've heard of your discovery. Everything comes to you. Why does not some little Roman girl fling herself into my arms?"

And as he spoke he stretched out his arms, either in indication of his readiness to receive such a visitor, or as a salutation to my little girl, who had sheltered herself behind me. I took him aside to explain to him the state of the case.

"The fact is," said I, "that my dear little girl, whose health you know is rather delicate, took it so much to heart, that for her sake I have buried all the relics again."

"I see," he said, "and when the fit's over you'll dig them up again."

"Not so," said I, for some of my little girl's earnestness had imparted itself to me; "she shall lie in her grave for me till God comes to judge the world."

"Well, but, I say," he went on, "suppose I come up some morning with a brand new doll, promise me you won't stand in the way of business."

"My dear friend," said I, "when you have a little girl like my Lily—I recommend you to take the preliminary steps," (the Doctor was a bachelor)—"you will get to know something of what such little minds are capable."

"Ah!" he said; "ah! Now let me in my turn give you a little bit of advice. In case a couple of doctors come up some morning to interview you, if they should try to lead the conversation to this subject, be on your guard, lest it should turn out to be a case of *de lunatico inquirendo*."

So saying, all in perfect good humour, "it was," as people said, "his way," he took his departure, leaving me for once not sorry to get rid of him.

By and by the photographer came up, and instead of the relics he was sent for to depict, we found him some work to do in the shape of sundry little groups of merry and happy children.

And towards evening the great physician from London made his appearance. He was one of those few men who, in addition to skill born of natural sagacity and vast experience, are indued with something of that subtle intuitiveness which is a gift not to be acquired. And moreover, he had that winning charm of manner which makes even the most sensitive of patients yield up their inmost secrets. He listened with much attention and interest to the story we had to tell him, and had a long interview with Lily by herself, before he came to us in the study where we were anxiously waiting for his opinion.

"Well!" he said, "there is no great harm done as yet, but your little girl will require great care—very great care." And he then went into various details, which it is not necessary here to recapitulate. Before taking his departure, however, he said—

"Just one word more. Let me tell you, my friend, you never did a wiser thing than when you yielded to your little girl's whim I don't like to call it, for it seems more of a sacred feeling—about the Roman girl. I know well what a sacrifice it must have been, but I frankly own to you that I would not have liked to be responsible for the case of this child—so sensitive as she seems to be to certain deep impressions—with such a burthen on her pure, unselfish little mind."

"I cannot tell you, doctor," said I, "how thankful I am to you for that opinion, for now, thus fortified, I can set down my foot on all cavillers and scoffers. But does there not seem to be something not easy to understand in all this?" I went on. "My little girl retired to rest so perfectly satisfied with what I proposed, that it is difficult to conceive how anything could have arisen out of her own inner consciousness to produce such a remarkable impression upon her mind."

"I think it may be accounted for on natural principles," he replied. "Your little girl's own idea was a genuine one. She felt pained that the remains of a beloved daughter should be exposed to the vulgar gaze like, to use her own words, 'a curiosity.' Your alternative proposal, intended for the purpose of soothing her mind and at the same time keeping your treasures, was, however well-intentioned, something of a sham. Her deference to you, and perhaps a specious show of sentiment in the proposal, reconciled her to it in the first instance. But in the stillness of the night her little mind, brooding over it, waking or sleeping, came at last to see it in its true light, and produced on her, unduly excited as she probably was, this remarkable impression. This seems to me a fair way of accounting for it, but nevertheless I would not say that there is no other. Much as I despise the opinions of those who would have us believe that the spirits of the loved departed come back to twitch our hair and to play tricks upon tables, I dare not say that between two loving and kindred spirits circumstances may not arise to create a mysterious bond of sympathy for which it is beyond our philosophy to account."

"Something of that sort," said I, "seems to have been the belief of the Romans, who held that the *manes*, or spirits of the departed attached themselves as guardian angels to kindred spirits yet on earth."

"Well, however it be," said he, rising to take his leave, "there is no doubt that the best cure for all such mental disturbances is a perfect state of bodily health. And I trust that with the return of warm summer weather, your dear little girl may regain all her wonted health and spirits."

"Amen!" said I. "Doctor, amen!"

Summer had come again. The golden sunlight shed a glory on our stately elms, and cast their flickering shadows on the grass; the birds—we all loved and cherished them—sang their blithe carols on every side; all nature around seemed awakened to new life and loveliness. Within, all was darkness and desolation; for the edict had gone forth that Lily was to die, and not to live.

I had prayed, as I had never prayed before, that God would spare me this one ewe lamb, but it was not to be. In spite of all that skill and tenderness could do, the disease had of late so rapidly gained ground, that now even love could no longer hope. She had seen, she told us, the little Roman girl once more, bright and glorious as an angel, with outstretched arms and loving smiles, waiting to welcome her; and too well we knew what that sign meant.

I stole to her bedside for the few minutes during which, in her now weak state, I was allowed to be with her. I found her propped with pillows so that she could get a view of the loved garden corner where, among the childish graves, the sunlight flecked with gold the grey memorial-stone of Lucia. Her fair hair, soft and glossy as floss-silk, hung round her in tangled waves, that told of the restlessness of weariness and pain. Her sweet face was drawn in by hard, cruel lines, till the blue eyes stood out unnaturally large and bright; her poor little wasted arms trembled as she stretched them out to me. The wan little face lighted up with smiles as I approached, and, taking her hand in mine, bent over her to listen to her accents, now scarcely above a whisper.

"Oh! dear papa!" she said, "how I have longed for your coming. It is of you I have been thinking all this morning. How good you have been to me always—always—and especially that one time when you gave me up Lucia. She will be the first to meet me, for she will run before the rest, and I will take her by the hand, and lead her up to dear Aunt Mary and grandmamma; and I will take her aside and tell her all, and she shall love you—Oh! how she shall love you! And then, oh, dearest—dearest papa!—when you—come—we—" The lips still moved with loving words, but the feeble voice was choked.

Yet three days more, and I stood again by her bedside—to kiss for the last time the dear lips that should never smile a welcome to me more—to press for the last time the little hand that should never twine itself in mine again. All trace of weariness and pain had passed away; she lay, her long silky lashes veiling her drooped eyes, as in the slumber of innocence and peace. And on her breast—laid by an unseen hand—was a cluster of summer violets.

They sleep together in God's acre—the loved ones of a thousand years apart. It was Lily's last request that the little Roman girl should rest by her side under the shadow of the text, "Suffer little children to come unto me."

O, Dulcissima! Dilectissima!

R. FROUSON.

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MILES.	STATIONS.	DOWN TRAINS.												FARES.		
		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st Cls.	2nd Cls.	3rd Cls.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	—	—	—
3½	Shinagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
6	Omori.....	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	— 40	— 20	— 10
10½	Kawasaki.....	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	— 55	— 30	— 15
12½	Tsurumi.....	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	— 70	— 40	— 20
16½	Kanagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Yokohama.....	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	1 00	— 60	— 30

UP TRAINS.

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen sen	yen sen	yen sen
—	Yokohama.....	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	—	—	—
1½	Kanagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
5½	Tsurumi.....	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	— 40	— 20	— 10
7½	Kawasaki.....	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	— 55	— 30	— 15
12	Omori.....	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	— 70	— 40	— 20
14½	Shinagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	1 00	— 60	— 30

STATEMENT OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

	Passengers &c.	Goods &c.	Total.
TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION. (Miles open 18) for week ended March 27th 1878...	\$ 7,966.01	\$ 635.29	\$ 8,601.30
for corresponding period last year.	5,747.89	888.23	6,636.12
Increase.....			\$ 1,965.18
KIOTO—KOBE SECTION. (Miles open 47½) for week ended March 17th 1878	\$ 9,262.01	\$ 1,570.742	\$ 10,832.752
for corresponding period last year			\$ 8,684.802
Increase.....			\$ 2,147.950

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29th, 1878.

The gloomy news from Europe and the continued depressed state of native currency continue to keep markets generally dull, and the ingenuity of our reporters is much exercised in finding a sufficiency of different phrases to indicate that business is dull and that there are no transactions to report. Yet we cannot say that the markets are in an unhealthy state: there can be nothing doing at this season in silk and tea and no dollars are consequently forthcoming for the purchase of goods; but there is every evidence of elasticity in the trade and it would at once respond to any turn of political or financial affairs in its favour.

IMPORTS:—The speculative demand for cotton yarn still continues, and we have over 2,000 bales reported again as 'sold to arrive.' It is much to be feared that this business will turn out disastrously for the foreign merchant: no bargain money is obtained on the great majority, if on any, of these sales; they are all made for periods which will bring the whole of the goods here nearly together: the native merchants are perfectly capable of combining, when the goods arrive simultaneously, to refuse to take delivery at all:—as they have done before,—and then, in a glutted market, to obtain the stuff at their own prices. And the native Courts will give no redress.

We have ascertained that our views recently expressed respecting the reflux of currency from Kiushiu are correct, and that there really is a good demand in the interior, and if the value of the currency approached a little nearer to par, good and brisk *bond fide* business would be done. As it is, the scarcity of dollars among the natives, which must necessarily last until the new season opens in our produce markets, of course prevents any but sales to arrive, except of a trifling character. Prices for most goods show a slight decline, for particulars we refer to next page.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** Our market is almost exhausted of silk of purchasable quality, and the very depressing character of political and commercial advices from Europe almost entirely stops business. To such an extent has this depression been felt since our last report, that we have to leave our quotations entirely unchanged, and they must be considered quite nominal. The French mail took away 371 bales, making the export for the season 20,364. Stocks from 1,000 to 1,500 native bales.

EXCHANGE:—In consequence of the very limited business doing at the period of the year in produce, transactions in private paper since our last issue have been of a trifling nature, without change in rates.

For six months' sight Bank drafts, the demand at 3/11½ has been moderate, but an advance of an eighth offered this afternoon may induce further business for the English mail leaving 2nd proxo.

In local exchanges business has been inconsiderable at former figures, one New York and San Francisco there is no business to report.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 4s. 0d. sight 3s. 11d., Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 4.90 sight 5.00. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.05. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 1½d. Private, 10 days' sight 1½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 73½ o/o disct. Private, 10 days' sight 72½ o/o disct. San Francisco Bank sight 94½ nom. New York Bank, sight 94 nom. BULLION. Gold Yen 391, Kinsatsu 411.

[**LATEST INTELLIGENCE:**—Saturday 30th March. Noon. As we go to press we hear that the Japanese Government have received information from their ambassador at St. Petersburg, that the declaration of War is on the point of being made. Private telegrams received by foreign Banks report great excitement and the position 'most critical.')

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Mar. 23	Orange Grove	Longmuir	Brit. barq.	385	Takao		Sugar	Chinese.
" 24	Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Jap. str.	880	Kobe	Mar. 22	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 24	Kestrel	Theobald	Brit. G. boat		Kobe	" 22		
" 25	Prinz Friedrich Carl	Mohr	Ger. str.	1,120	London		General	H. Ahrens & Co.
" 26	Glamis Castle	Greig	Brit. str.	1,538	London via Hong- kong & Shanghai		{ General	Adamson Bell & Co.
" 27	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	" 25	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 27	Suminoe Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	852	Hakodate	" 23	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 27	Glenartney	Gulland	Brit. str.	1,370	London		General	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 28	Nagoya Maru	Connor	Jap. str.	1,914	Shanghai and ports	" 20	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 28	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong	" 21	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 28	Meiji Maru	Peters	Jap. str.	1,010	Cruise			Lighthouse Department.
" 30	Comet	Norris	Am. ship	1,157	Hongkong		Iron	Ed. Fischer & Co.

PASSENGERS.—Per Jap. str. *Tsuruga Maru* from Kobe:—Capt. I. W. Ekstrand, Capt. Wm. Cotter, Messrs. J. F. Allen, W. Brent, Hirata Fukuhe, and Terada Toro in the cabin; and 1 European and 98 Japanese in the steerage.
 Per Brit. str. *Glamis Castle* from London:—Mr. Grob. From Shanghai: Mr. Brown.
 Per Jap. str. *Suminoe Maru* from Hakodate:—Mr. and Mrs. Ing and child, Governor of Awomori, and suite.
 Per Brit. str. *Glenartney* from Hongkong:—Messrs. Barber and Milne from London.
 Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Malsch, Lee, Keefe, Pough, Cheetham, McMartin and servant, Cowderoy, Darwin, Thorne, Yoshida, Sakagami, Yasuoka, Hagimoto, Inaba, Okubo, Inouye, Ohye, Taniguchi, Susuki, Fuchi, Koiki, Noitow, Kodama, 2 Chinese Mandarins, Takahashi, Utsumi, Governor of Nagasaki, Watanabe, Governor of Fukuoka, Iwamura, Governor of Ehime, Koyama, Governor of Wakayama, Koteda, Governor of Shiga, and Sakai, Governor of Shimane in the cabin; 1 European, 260 Japanese, and 6 Chinese in the steerage.
 Per Frch. str. *Tibre* from Hongkong:—Messrs. Hendermann, Varrooski, P. A. Brink, Esleve, and Arrighi.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN.—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Laura," Nov. 21; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Oxfordshire," Jan. 31.
 FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sumner E. Mead," Oct. 26; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Haze," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24.
 FROM HAMBURG:—"August," Oct. 16.
 FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
 FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—P. M. S. S. "China" March 4; O. & O. S. "Oceanic" March 19.
 FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle," Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.
 FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.
 FROM HONGKONG:—P. & O. S. S. "Malacca," Mar. 28th.
 FROM SHANGHAI:—"Omba," March 19.
 FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

LOADING FOR JAPAN.—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," "Flying Spur," S. S. "Madras," "Bon Accord," S. S. "Burmese."

MAILS DUE FROM.—Hongkong P. & O. str. April 6th; Hongkong M. M. str. April 14th; America P. M. str. March 30th; O. & O. str. April 11th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 3rd.

CARGOES.—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* from Shanghai and ports—Treasure, \$123,600.00 and 59,254 00 yen.
 Per Frch. str. *Tibre* from Hongkong:—Sugar, 4,626 bags; General, 1,789 packages

REPORTS.—The British barque *Orange Grove* reports:—Left Takao on the 23rd February. Very severe weather throughout the entire passage. Lost 3 stanchions and forward bulwarks.
 The German steamer *Prinz Friedrich Carl* reports:—Left Hongkong 16th inst. Fine weather throughout the entire passage.
 The American ship *Comet* reports:—Strong N. E. monsoon in the China Sea. After arrival on the Japan Coast strong N. W. winds. Made the passage in 20 days.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Mar. 23	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,343	Kobe	Mar. 25	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 24	Alerta	Talbot	Brit. schr.	215	Amoy		Rice	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 24	Sacramento	Nelson	Am. ship	1,480	Kobe		Ballast	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 24	Toyosaima Maru	Hubbard	Jap. str.	597	Samsesawa		General	M. B. M. Co.
" 26	Tanais	De la Marcelle	Frch. str.	1,735	Hongkong	Apr. 2	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 26	Areola	P'enary	Brit. barq.	946	Kobe		General	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 27	Bertha Marion	Scarlett	Brit. barq.	595	Kobe		Ballast	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 27	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai and ports	" 4	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 28	Adeline Marianne	Dahl	Ger. barq.	300	Kobe		Ballast	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 29	Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Jap. str.	880	Kobe		General	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS.—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—H. E. Mons. de Groote, Madame de Groote, 2 children, and 2 servants, Mons. Paul de Groote, Mrs. Kirkwood, Mrs. Von Hemert, 3 children and 1 servant, Messrs. Lucas, Nicolas, and Dolain, and 2 Chinese in the steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* for Shanghai and ports.—For Kobe: Mr. and Mrs. Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy and infant, Mrs. Remedios, Mrs. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Nakamura, Messrs. Endo, Nino, Ijuin, Arikawa, Kawamura, Arima, Ozier, Asai, Wada, Yasui, Umakoshi, Masuda, Ishikawa, and Hawkins. For Nagasaki: Messrs. Yamaguchi Toyo, Yamaguchi Muimachi, Asuma, Kiku, W. B. Mason, F. V. Dickens, E. H. M. Gower, Aoki, Mine, and F. da Roza. For Shanghai:—Mrs. J. C. Ballagh, Miss McNeal, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Ness, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and maid, Mrs. Allan, and Mr. Warner.

LOADING.—*Sunda*, for Hongkong and Europe, April 1st.—P. & O. Co.

Takachiko Maru, for Shanghai and ports, April 3rd.—M. B. M. Co.

City of Tokio, for San Francisco, April 5th.—P. M. Co.

Paralos, for Niigata, Quick despatch.—H. Koch.

Suminoe Maru, for Hakodate, April 1st.—M. B. M. Co.

Glenartney, for Kobe, Quick despatch.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Johann Wickhorst, for London, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffier & Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR.—For Hongkong P. & O. str. April 2nd; for Hongkong M. M. str. April 9th; for America P. M. str. April 5th; O. & O. str. April 20th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 3rd; for Hakodate M. B. M. str. April 1st.

CARGOES.—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Silk for Marseilles, 371 bales; Waste Silk for France 92 bales; Treasure for Hongkong, \$18,600.00; Treasure for London, \$75,700.00.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$10,500.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Akitsuishima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate		M. B. M. Co.	
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Glamis Castle	Grey	British steamer	1,538	London via Hongkong & Shanghai	Mar. 26	Adamson Bell & Co.	
Glenartney	Gulland	British steamer	1,370	London	Mar. 27	Jardine Matheson & Co.	Kobe.
Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	Mar. 22	M. B. M. Co.	
Hiroshima Maru	Burdiss	Japanese steamer	1,870	Shanghai & ports	Feb. 7	M. B. M. Co.	
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Mar. 28	Lighthouse Department	
Nagoya Maru	Connor	Japanese steamer	1,914	Shanghai & ports	Mar. 28	M. B. M. Co.	
Prinz Friedrich Carl	Mohr	German steamer	1,120	London	Mar. 25	H. Ahrens & Co	
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	Mar. 27	M. B. M. Co.	Hakodate.
Sunda	Reeves	British steamer	1,704	Hongkong	Mar. 22	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Hakodate	Jan. 31	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Tamura Maru	Dithlefsen	Japanese steamer	558	Kobe		Government service	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Mar. 28	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	Mar. 15	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
SAILING SHIP.							
Comet	Norris	American ship	1,157	Hongkong	Mar. 30	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Fire Queen	Hamilton	British barque	769	Hakodate	Mar. 17	E. B. Watson.	
Iphigenia	Green	German barque	464	Hamburg	Mar. 8	L. Kniffler & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	Hamb'g via Kobe	Mar. 14	L. Kniffler & Co.	London.
Jotun	Hauff	Norw'gn ship	885	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 19	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Jupiter	Johnson	Russian schooner	50	Kurile Islands	Nov. 8	Captain	
Lotte	Haskerl	Russian schooner	25	Kurile Islands	Oct. 26	Captain	
Orange Grove	Longmuir	British barque	385	Takao	Mar. 23	Chinese	
Otaego	Cook	American sch'ner	52	Kurile Islands	July 19	H. Cook.	
Paralos	Pasco	French barque	340	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 11	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Niigata.
Succes	Ollivaud	French barque	363	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 19	Walsh, Hall & Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Modeste	14	1,405	Corvette	Captain Buller C.B.
BRITISH—Egeria	4	1,011	Sloop	Captain Douglas.
BRITISH—Juno	8	2,216	Corvette	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel	4	462	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
GERMAN—Augusta	12	1,900	Corvette	Captain Hessempflug.
RUSSIAN—Boyan		2,000	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak	8	1,100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
RUSSIAN—Vsadnick	8	1,069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.

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Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

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TIMES' at the same address.

THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. NO. 14.]

April 6, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

THE DRAIN OF BULLION.

IT has often occurred to us that the difficulties which the Japanese mind appears to experience in digesting the principles of Plutonomy as they are applied to commerce, and now universally acknowledged by western nations, may arise from the fact that the whole of the foreign trade is conducted by aliens; while the domestic trade is rigidly confined to natives of the soil. The antagonism thus naturally created between two classes, which in other countries merge together, has doubtless given rise to the popular conception of a foreign merchant as being a sort of rapacious adventurer, who, having by the help of his fleets and armies gained admission to the country, has succeeded in introducing a vitiated taste for his trumpery wares, in return for which he will accept nothing but coin. Indeed, if we may accept the leading articles of many of even the best of the native journals as reflecting the opinion of the masses, the unappreciated, misunderstood foreign merchant must be regarded by the people among whom his unhappy lot is cast with the same disgust and aversion with which the West Indian thinks of the vampire bat, which battens on the life blood of which it depletes its victim, while with its fatal, insidious caress it lulls him to repose. And while an honest foreign historian has to confess that—in the early days of our trade with Japan—too much ground of justification was given for such a comparison, he has to labour under another disadvantage. For of the influence of foreign commerce upon the wealth, industry and civilization of a country, the Japanese can of necessity have had as yet little or no experience, and without that experience, it is but natural that they should feel that what foreigners advance upon the subject is too strongly tinged by self-interest to be worthy of serious consideration. This is most lamentable: for Credit is the life of Commerce, and credit must be born of mutual confidence and common advantage, and until this fundamental truth can be driven into the mind of the native merchant, the labour of the publicist is spent in vain. But still, like the sower in the parable, he must go on, sowing the good seed. Though much falls on stony places and by the way-side, where it fails to germinate, yet some may fall on good ground, and the time may be yet to come when he who went out oppressed with doubt and discouragement, may return in joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

That the middle and lower classes of Japanese society possess the true mercantile spirit, there can be no doubt. The ambition of every domestic servant is to open a shop, or become a trader, as soon as he has saved a few *ries*; and foreign merchants are pestered with applications from aspirants who, for small wages, or for none at all, seek to enter their service with a view to availing themselves of the knowledge they thus hope to acquire. The first feature that strikes every traveller in the interior is the disproportion between the number of shops in the towns,

and the population which has apparently to furnish customers for them. If it be only a heap of unripe oranges, a few slices of odoriferous *daikon*, or a cent's worth of undesirable sweetmeats, house after house on either side of the street, offers its merchandise to the notice of the public. This national idiosyncrasy is possibly only another phase of a serious defect in the character of the middle and lower classes, which betrays itself also in an inordinate love for the *hibatchi*, and a predilection for such phrases as *mudaukashii* and *nochi-hodo*, but it also undoubtedly contains the germs of an enterprising spirit which, if properly educated, may at no distant date make Japan one of the wealthiest countries in existence. But before this useful disposition of her people can be profitably turned to account, it is necessary that Japan should give her adherence to those great principles which have long since been adopted by the leading commercial countries of the world. She must admit with them, that foreign commerce is of absolute necessity to her wealth and progress, and that in proportion to the encouragement given to foreign trade (or rather to the absence of interference with it) will be the position she is destined to occupy amongst civilized nations. Her merchants, her journalists, her statesmen must study, till they assimilate them, the leading principles of the Science of Wealth; must learn that money is not wealth, but only its representative; that a drain of gold from a country is less to be dreaded than a drain of food, or emigration of labour; that the readiest measure of a country's riches and vitality is the amount of its imports, &c. &c. Japan's foreign trade will never flourish, to the advantage of native and foreigner alike, until these and other elementary truths of Plutonomy sink deep into the national mind, and in setting forth what to our own countrymen are platitudes, we must be forgiven—and shall deserve to be thanked—if we can get our doctrines translated and adopted by the native press.

That the value of the imports into any country is the true test of the extent of its foreign trade, and consequently of its wealth, has been abundantly demonstrated. In the primitive community, he who was most expert and worked the hardest, was able to barter his surplus produce for other articles which were of more value to him, and consequently experienced the most enjoyment. Although the man who made two blades of grass to grow where only one grew, before is dignified with the title of a benefactor to the human race, self-interest alone prompted him to the exertion. If he had previously found one blade of grass sufficient for his own wants in this direction, it was manifestly waste of labour, and consequent shortening of his life, to grow the other one. But when he discovered that he could procure some other commodity, a pair of breeches for example, at less labour to himself by growing the extra blade of grass, than if he had set work to make them, he laid the foundation of that splendid edifice which, under the name of Commerce, has since astonished and delighted

the civilized world. Whilst buttoning the breeches, he would naturally remark 'Ha! my blade of grass has developed into a pair of breeches,' and the breeches-maker would rejoin—'Ho! my pair of breeches has produced a blade of grass.' The latter would have as much right to the title of a benefactor to the human race as the former, as without the stimulus of his breeches, the additional blade of grass would never have been raised. But neither farmer nor tailor would have assessed his labor at any other value than that of the article he received in exchange for it, as neither would think of spending his time in making breeches, or in raising grass, for which he had no purchaser. And although the progress of civilization and the exigencies of society have introduced a medium of exchange, a division of labour, and many other conveniences which now render the rude system of barter no longer necessary, a little reflection shows that the principle remains unchanged.

Every one therefore, whether he be a student of plutonomy or not, must admit that the test of wealth, as applied either to an individual or to a nation, is the *purchasing* power it confers. The mere possession of coin, *per se*, does not constitute riches, as poor Robinson Crusoe discovered when, with thousands of pieces of eight in his cave, he was forced to go about barefooted. In fact, were it possible to accumulate all the money of the universe into the hands of one man, in twelve hours' time he would be in danger of starvation, unless he had previously learnt some profession or trade, the produce of which he could exchange against necessary food. While on the other hand, his fellow-men would be merely put to the temporary inconvenience of supplying their wants by barter, until some other form of circulating medium was devised. To use the words of a well known writer on this subject:—"If gold and silver should at any time fall short in a country which has wherewithal to purchase them, there are more expedients for supplying their place than that of almost any other commodity. If the materials of manufacture are wanted, industry must stop. If provisions are wanted, the people must starve. But if money is wanted, barter will supply its place, though with a good deal of inconveniency." (Smith's Wealth of Nations.)

We have been led into making these remarks, for the triteness of which we have already apologised to our well-informed foreign readers, through noticing the uneasiness with which the increasing development of the Import trade is regarded by the native press (and we believe by the Government) as resulting in a considerable export of bullion, to the impoverishment of the country. As has been abundantly manifested by our translations from the native press, some of the leading journals of the capital, whose circulation must, we are informed, be reckoned by thousands, are almost demoniacally possessed by this error, and no one can confer a greater benefit on both native and foreign commerce than he who shall succeed in exorcising the evil spirit. That such fears are utterly groundless has been abundantly shown by every writer on Plutonomy for the past fifty years, and we could fill our present issue with quotations in proof of the assertion. McCulloch says "it would be worse than useless to take up the reader's time by proving what is now universally admitted—that gold and silver form only a very small portion of the wealth of every civilized country, and that it is in no respect necessary to take any extraordinary measures to force their importation, or to retain them at home after they have been imported." Not only is the common theory with respect to the balance of trade erroneous, but the very reverse of it is true. In the *first* place, the value of the commodities imported by all countries which carry on an advantageous commerce (and no other will be prosecuted for any considerable period) invariably exceeds the value of those which they export. Unless such were the case, there would plainly be no fund whence the merchants, and others engaged in foreign trade, could desire either a profit on their capital, or a return for their outlay and

"trouble. And, in the *second* place, whether the balance of debt be for or against a country, that balance will neither be paid nor received in bullion, unless bullion be at the time the commodity, by the exportation or importation of which the account may be most profitably settled."

Let the Japanese take this condensed into the axiom:—that the excess of imports over exports represents the profit on their export trade;—and when therefore they see a large export of bullion from the country, they may be assured that they are giving in exchange for their purchases that which it costs them least to give. If the course of trade, for instance, necessitates an export of some commodity to the value of \$1,000,000 to pay for imports, or for a loan &c., and it is possible to procure for \$900,000 a quantity of silk, the sale of which would realize \$1,000,000, silk is the most profitable form in which the payment can be made. If on the other hand, silk is of greater value in Japan than in the country to which the debt is due (making allowance of course for expenses of transit) and the quantity necessary to liquidate the obligation would cost \$1,100,000, Japan undoubtedly loses \$100,000 by exporting silk, and had better export bullion. The money shipment shows that the native grower or producer has found a more profitable market for his produce in Japan, and so far from its being a loss to the country, it is actually evidence that the foreigner is getting the worst of the bargain. To elucidate this point fully would occupy more space than we can at present devote to it, but we may mention one fact in illustration. Sterling exchange, or the value of drafts upon London, fluctuates in accordance with demand and supply, or in other words follows the universal law of commerce. When the quantity of produce exported greatly exceeds that of the goods imported, there is naturally more money required by the purchaser of produce than is available from the sale of goods; whilst if but little produce is being exported and many imports sold, a surplus of money comes into importers' hands. If no other disturbing causes obtain, in the former case exchange rises, in the latter case it falls. The foreigner therefore, who has imported goods at the time when exports have fallen short, finds himself obliged to remit at unfavorable rates, and his venture proves unprofitable, for no other reason than that the money which he has received in exchange for his wares is not worth so much to him as he expected.

It was our intention to have offered some remarks respecting the details of the trade of Japan during 1877, but our article has already exceeded its allotted space, and we doubt not that our mercantile readers will be well pleased with us for sparing them our speculations as to the causes of the increased consumption of cotton yarn, and our expression of surprise that so large a proportion of the imports sold in Yokohama should be for the Osaka market. If any of them have any special views upon these abstruse questions we shall be glad to see them ventilated in our Correspondence columns. This is, besides, an elementary chapter of our Primer of Plutonomy, and as such more fitly addressed to Japanese readers. We should be fully rewarded for our work if we could think that perusal of it would convince Government, Press, and people that they have no cause to fear either the export of bullion, or the import of foreign goods; that though both are indications that new wants have been created, both are also evidence that the gratification of these wants, and consequently the extension of the people's happiness, are paid for by increase in the value of the country's products, and development of her purchasing power.

H. M. S. "EURYDICE."

THE loss of H. M. S. *Eurydice*, with her crew of four hundred men, must have taken all England by surprise, as the vessel was well known to have abundant

stability, and good sea-going qualities. We fear that all on board at the time of the accident were drowned, and that the exact cause of the turn-over will for ever remain a mystery. The capsizing of H. M. S. *Captain* in 1870 was easily accounted for, after the fact; indeed Mr. Reed asserts that he prognosticated the loss before the vessel went to sea. The iron-clad was too heavily weighted, her coal stock had been exhausted, the centre of gravity was in consequence raised unduly, and the vessel, with her low freeboard and general instability, was not in a fit condition to support a heavy press of canvas in squally weather. The loss of H. M. S. *Eurydice* is not so easily accounted for. She had no engines or coal bunkers to derange her stability, her masting was, not excessive, and the only difference to her designed condition which occurs to us is, that her eighteen 32 cwt. guns were removed from the main deck, and that the only armament carried on her last cruise, was four 3½ ton (64 pounder) guns which were placed on the upper or spar deck. The removal of about 45 tons weight from the main deck would undoubtedly make a considerable difference to the little frigate when under sail, unless counteracted by compensatory ballasting. And if, as is possible, no compensations had been made for the changed weights, the loss of the vessel will be explained, under conditions of weather frequently occurring in the West Indies, and indicated in our note of last week, when first mentioning the catastrophe.

Our readers may be interested if we add a few remarks on vessels which, owing to the changed conditions of warfare, have become obsolete. The *Eurydice*, of 921 tons and 26 guns, was one of the most perfect sailing frigates ever built. She was designed by Admiral Hayes, to compete with H. M. S. *Vestal* and *Carysfort*, which were built on the draughts of Sir Wm. Symonds. The designs of Admiral Hayes were not entirely original, as he took for his model the immersed sections of the famous Spanish frigate *Santa Margarita*, a vessel of incomparable speed in her day, built in Havana over eighty years ago. Other nations, in those days, had paid more attention to ships' forms than ourselves and had certainly produced better models; and up to the year 1830, our best men-of-war were built upon the lines of captured vessels, such as the *Santa Margarita*, the *Hirondelle*, *Canopus*, *San Josef* and others. The modifications made by Admiral Hayes were, contrary to the usual course, not detrimental, and the *Eurydice*, from her first commission to the day she went down, was one of the fastest and best sailing vessels in Europe, and her speed when beating to windward was extraordinary. Her success on all points was so great, that Admiral Hayes was ordered to build a vessel 500 tons larger than the *Eurydice*; and he produced the *Inconstant*, of 1,400 tons and 36 guns, to compete with the *Castor* of Sir R. Seppings and the *Pique* and *Cambrian* of Sir W. Symonds. The *Inconstant* had the same form, immersed and emerged, as the *Eurydice*, and, like her, was by far the best vessel of her class; beautiful, swift, perfectly manageable, with good stowage and fighting quarters, and in all respects an admirable and even perfect cruiser. It is certain that no navy possessed more beautiful ships than the English navy had from 1838 to 1848: the French ships were too crowded with guns and, as a rule, were crank, and carried their main-deck batteries too low, and although the United States had some very heavy frigates, armed with Paixhan shell guns, their speed under canvas was, generally, inferior to that of the British frigates. When, at a later time, it became necessary to carry heavier shell guns, and in consequence to increase the size of the sailing vessels, no improvement was made in form or stability, speed or sea-going qualities; in these the vessels built between 1838 and 1848 were never surpassed, and to Admiral Hayes belongs the pre-eminence of merit. He did not live to design a larger class of vessels than his two famous ships; his drawing

for 50 gun frigates and two-deck ships of 80 or 90 guns being uncompleted when he died. The *Emerald* of 50 guns, laid down for a sailing frigate, but afterwards lengthened and converted into a screw steamer, was built on lines, always similar and in part identical with the *Eurydice* model, but was not a success, as her immersed body was not suited to carry the weights of engines and coals. But had Admiral Hayes lived, we believe he would have maintained his superiority in the experimental squadrons of 1848, 1849 and 1852, when the superb frigates of Edye (*Indefatigable*) Blake (*Phæbe*) Fincham (*Raleigh*) White (*Phaeton*) Lang (*Nankin*) and Symonds (*Arethusa* and *Constance*) competed for mastery. Of these magnificent vessels, the *Nankin* was the best of all, though the *Phaeton* was fastest in light winds, and the *Arethusa* had the advantage in heavy weather. The *Nankin* also had the superiority of emerged form and was unquestionably not only the most beautiful frigate of her own class, but also probably the most exquisitely shaped sailing vessel ever built in England. At this time, England possessed a noble fleet of sailing frigates, and the art of seamanship was brought to a perfection we shall never see again, as for want of practice, deterioration must occur. There is now no room for the talent of Keppel, Seymour, Elliot, and others of the old school, as the oblong, rectangular boxes of the present epoch are managed, when under canvas, with difficulty, and their progress depends mainly upon the stoker.

Many of the larger sailing frigates were lengthened and fitted with engines, but not successfully, as the midship sections were unsuitable. Then followed a series of fine vessels, specially designed for screw propulsion, mostly draughted by Mr. Isaac Watts, one of the best English naval architects, and the different types, *Imperieuse*, *Tribune*, *Faun*, *Pearl*, *Shannon*, *Doris*, *Mersey*, *Ariadne*, *Perseus*, &c. maintained his great reputation.

But few of our noble wooden sailing ships now survive even as hulks, and in a few years more, even these must disappear, and their fine models become obsolete relics of the past. In these waters we have had some good specimens of the old wooden fleet. The *Rodney*, designed by Sir R. Seppings, the *Conqueror*, by Sir W. Rule, and the *Princess Royal*, by Sir W. Symonds, were stately ships possessing fine qualities, and of perfect carpentry and construction. These three ships were originally designed as sailing vessels, but at the time of the Crimean war of 1854 were lengthened by the stern, and converted into screw steamers. As such, they did good service for a time, until large rifled guns made all high wooden-built ships dangerous, and noble and swift two and three-decked ships like the *Agamemnon*, *Duncan*, *Howe*, *Victoria*, the master pieces of Watts and Lang, and a score or more of others, were relegated to peaceful duties, and are now coal hulks or school ships. For war they are useless.

The cruising ship of the future will be like the Russian *General Admiral*, or the English *Shannon*, *Nelson* and *Northampton*; full rigged ships, essentially built of iron, with numerous "cloisons" or compartments, with armoured athwart-ships bulkheads, to keep the battery free from raking attack, and to cover the guns for fore and aft fire. The vertical sides of the batteries are wholly unarmoured, and the only protection to the men who serve the broad-side guns, will be a steel screen or traverse at each side and at rear of the gun. But the lower, or orlop, deck is armoured horizontally with three inches of plating, and the shell room, magazines, torpedo apparatus, engines, boilers and steering machines are protected by a vertical belt of armour 180 feet long, about 12 feet wide, and on the average 9 inches thick. The vessels are armed with strong spurs, and are either coppered, or sheathed with zinc, and as they carry 18 ton, (400 pounder) guns, for end-on fire and 12½ ton (300 pounder) guns for the broad-sides, will be, even against heavy iron-clads, fully effec-

tive antagonists. These iron ships will have good coal stowage and a speed of $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots, and are in all respects steam vessels, as the sails are hoisted, anchors raised, the guns trained and loaded, small boats propelled and steering effected by steam power. Even the cooking is done by steam, as no fire is allowed in the galleys, roasting, boiling, stewing, &c., being done by the heat of high pressure steam. What a difference between the new ships and the class just replaced, like the *Immortalité* or *Galatée*, with their ten or eleven knot speed, small battery of four 115 pounder and twenty-four 64 pounder guns, and on which all work except propulsion of the vessel was done by the strong arms of 500 sturdy seamen!

The new teak-sheathed iron frigates *Shah*, *Inconstant*, and the corvettes of the *Active*, *Rover*, and smaller classes will be useful for a time as cruisers, by reason of their speed and strong construction. But they cannot endure the fire of heavy shell guns, are ineffective against even thinly plated ships, and their coal stowage is too small. And even the *General Admiral*, *Nelson*, and *Northampton*, considered as cruisers, do not attain finality and must ere long become as obsolete as their discarded predecessors, if the powers of carbonic acid gas can be safely applied to a rotatory or disc engine, which can give direct and not transmitted motion to the shafting. The present style of marine engines has become intolerable, on account of the great space required for coal, the room taken up by cumbrous machinery, and their excessive complications of reciprocating parts, tubes, valves, &c. In fact, the sooner we can give up steam, the better. On account of the excessive loss by radiation, coal fuel does not do even one tenth of its proper (theoretical) duty, and we trust soon to have an efficient motor in a gas of great expansive power. We see that one of Mr. Reed's last iron-clads has cylinders of 127 inches, and wants over 260 tons of coal for twenty-four hours' full speed!

War has now become scientific and murderous, but though its conditions have changed from the times of our Nelsons, Hoods and Cochranes, we may still rely on their successors, the Hornbys, Hewetts, and Seymours, and the scores of other British leaders of men, to sustain the glorious traditions of the Empire at this anxious time, when the nation is again called upon to maintain the cause of the peoples against the assaults of autocracy.

THE FORESTRY LAWS.

WE gladly welcomed the issue by the Naimusho, last week, of the Forestry Notification, and as the main principles which we have been advocating so strongly have been so promptly and frankly accepted by the Government, we have little doubt that they will receive in good part the criticism to which we have now to subject their Regulations. Criticism is a necessary duty, for the Regulations are full of serious errors.

The most important, and primary, fault is the lack of any attempt to establish the distinctions which are absolutely necessary in any Imperial system of Forestry:—the division of woods into Government, Communal, and Private. In every country where disafforestation has been going on for any time, or where for any reason, afforestation is desirable, there are vast tracts of mountainous and waste land which only a Government can attempt to clothe with wood, and which it is quite out of the power of any private individual to utilize. Governments can borrow money at a rate of interest below that at which private speculators can obtain it, and therefore the cost of the capital required for such works is greatly increased to the latter; Governments—trustees for the peoples—may properly invest capital in public works which will give no direct money return, will give but a small return, or will give a return only after a long period of expenditure; but

private investment in such enterprises as these cannot be expected: and in many instances, what are known abroad as Government Forests come under one or other of these categories. For, besides the woods, in which are grown the timber required by the various naval or military departments for building ships, gun-carriages, transport wagons, &c., it is most proper that Governments should plant forests on mountain ridges, whence spring, from rain or melting snow, the sources of rivers; to protect the streams in their infancy, to husband and equalize their water supply, to prevent the destruction of their beds by landslips or crumbling rocks. Governments may fitly spend more money along the courses of the streams, in planting loose alluvial banks with alders, willows, or other trees which will bind and strengthen them, and so helping to confine the rivers within their beds, that they may not overflow and devastate the land. In course of time, as we pointed out last week in 'Rivers Rebuilt,' wise expenditure like this, aided by other necessary works, will improve the lower courses of the streams and open up from the sea freer channels for navigation. And thus land becomes more valuable, the commerce of towns grows, the productive and purchasing power of the whole country is increased and thus is made, for the direct expenditure, the indirect return. But no private individual can be expected to undertake works like these. Again—it may be the duty of a government to plant woods on sterile plains, on drained marshes, on reclaimed wastes bordering some 'ruined river;' with the view that, hereafter, when the forests have done their work of recreating the *humus*, or soil, they may, by some succeeding generation, be cleared again and converted into arable land. Or, woods may be planted simply to attract rain in a dry country, and so improve the climate. Or, again, there are what may be called medicinal plantations, the latest outcome of the Science of Forestry—plantations of trees whose subtle perfume drives away malarious fevers. But all these which we have enumerated, and others, are works of afforestation which cannot possibly be undertaken by private enterprise, which cannot live on indirect profits, and which is entitled to ask for a rapid, as well as a direct, re-imbursement of capital. Therefore they must be undertaken by Governments, must be paid for out of the public purse, and must only be required to make returns in the indirect methods which we have pointed out. It is a most grave omission in the Naimusho's Regulations, that no provision whatever is made for this part of the work of afforesting the waste places of Japan.

'Communal' woods form the next important division into which forests are separated, in countries where the science of forestry is understood and practised. These are woods on subordinate tracts of land adjunct to 'communes,' townships or districts, whereon timber is raised for the benefit and use, and at the expense of separate communities, acting under their local officers. These are mainly tended with a view to immediate and local utilization, supplying building materials for houses—or for ships, near a coast port—wood for various local manufactures; such as furniture, tubs, barrels, agricultural implements, carriages &c. according to the district, climate, or condition of soil which may best suit any particular class of wood. In the event of a village or town being devastated by fire, or in case of a typhoon, always a local atmospheric convulsion, destroying fishing boats or junks, if a communal reserve of timber were at hand to be indented on for the materials of reparation, how rapidly and cheaply might such damage be repaired. Surely forethought in this direction is worthy of the attention of a paternal government. And pre-eminently and continuously, where coal does not exist, a perennial provision of fuel would be secured. This is a most important use of communal forests, fuel being indispensable, bulky, and costly to transport; and

again the Japanese Government will find, on enquiry, that this necessity of the people is carefully provided for in well-governed countries. And here we must digress so far as to commend the action of the central Government in giving considerable latitude of authority to the *kencho*, or local governments, in the matter of granting of leases, &c. to private individuals. The time has not, apparently, arrived for entrusting provincial bureaus with the expenditure of the public funds;—and the example of China must necessarily make the Mikado's government excessively cautious in this respect—but with railways and telegraphs traversing the country and facilitating communication, we hope soon to see something like the healthy municipal system of England springing up in Japan; and then, among other useful ways of spending provincial funds, will be seen to be this, of tending communal forests. Until this happier consummation is reached, the more costly and tedious method will have to be used of supplying provincial treasuries with funds for this purpose, from the Capital.

We now arrive at the consideration of the management of the third division into which forests are divided—private woodlands; and here we have to find fault with the Government and its Notification, for excess of supervision and interference, as much as for neglect of the other two more important departments. For really, private forests, when Government and Communal forests are properly administered, may be successfully left very much to the care of private persons, who may be generally trusted to look after their own interests, and should only be controlled by Governments, when their pursuit of their private ends threatens to conflict with the public good. What private forestry especially requires, in a disafforested country, at the hands of Governments, is encouragement; and considering that the investment of capital in tree-planting and forest culture must always be large, while the returns, though ultimately certain and crescent, are always at first meagre, governmental encouragement should be very liberal; and we regret to say that in the Regulations under review, we do not find as much of this liberality as we should wish to see, while there is more than enough of interference and control. Not that we deprecate 'control,' which, as we have said, when writing on the subject before, is essentially necessary to counteract the stupid greed of the peasant. But the control should not be brought into play until the forest is planted: when this has been done, it should be regarded as a banker regards a fixed deposit of money, and treated as such: the depositor being controlled to his own advantage. But criticism of these faults in the document before us we are compelled to postpone until next week; for it is one of the disadvantages under which labour journals like the *Japan Times*, when treating of such important questions as this, that the work of the writer must be interrupted, and the attention of his readers suspended, in obedience to the mechanical exigencies of the press. Proper division of the heads of his lay sermons is, therefore, what the journalist has chiefly to aim at; and thus, having noted the errors of omission in the Forestry Regulations, we must be content to leave those of commission for examination next week.

MR. RUSSELL ROBERTSON.

THE English Mail of the 10th. inst. will take away from Society in Yokohama a prominent and familiar figure, for H. B. M. Consul goes home on long leave, after a lengthened term of service. Mr. Russell Brooke Robertson entered the service in 1860, and has had nothing to complain of with respect to the steady and rapid promotion to which his industry and ability have entitled him. After passing through the grades from Student-Interpreter to

First Assistant, he was fortunate in being at hand during the troublous times of 1868-69, during which he was Acting Vice-Consul at Osaka, and First Assistant at Hiogo. Early in 1879—after a few months' tenure of the acting appointment, he was made Vice-Consul at Yedo, and in the following year was promoted to the full Consular dignity, and appointed to this post, where he has since occupied the curule chair. Until relieved to a great extent of his judicial duties, by the establishment of a Branch of the Supreme Court, Mr. Robertson discharged them with that efficiency which is best guaranteed, in the case of an amateur judge, by his taking the clear light of common sense as his guide and avoiding the delusive leading of legal arguments, the fallacies and sophistry of which neither education nor experience have fitted his mind to detect. That he succeeded in satisfying, at least, the suitors who came before him, is best shown by the fact that his decisions were seldom challenged by appeal. Since he has been relieved of the heavier part of his judicial functions, he has ably performed the laborious duties of police magistrate and judge of the Small Cause Court. But it is on his Annual Reports on the trade of Yokohama and Japan generally that Mr. Robertson may chiefly rest his claim to the community's respect and thanks, and to his official chiefs' appreciation of him as an industrious, able and valuable public servant. These documents are useful and thoroughly reliable records; they evidence great care and no small amount of labour in their compilation, and appear to have served as models for the Consular Reports from the less important *emporia* of trade in Japan. Merchants in the East are generally familiar with the way in which, as a rule, Consular Reports are got up. A Consul has to ask for assistance from experts on particular subjects, in precisely the same way as an editor of the newspaper solicits contributions for his columns; and it is therefore in the 'editing,' so to speak, of the various monographs with which his commercial friends supply him, that he must show his own knowledge of the trade of the port. But this 'editing' may be very badly, or very well done. A Consul totally ignorant of business matters, or to whom the subject is distasteful, may manufacture a Report by getting a number of specialists to write for him sections of the document; but if, as not unfrequently occurs, his contributors overstep their special provinces, and walk into those of their neighbours, he may publish most ludicrously contradictory views of the prospects of the same article of Import or Export; as we have, not unfrequently, seen done. At the best, his paper will very much resemble that of the sub-editor of the *Estatesville Gazette* on Chinese metaphysics, after he had crammed for twenty-four hours from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*,—reading for China under the letter C, and for Metaphysics under M, and then combining his information. Mr. Robertson's Reports are of a different character: they show signs of careful editing, and also that he has possessed sufficient knowledge of his own of the trade, to prevent any of his contributors from making use of his official Report for the ventilation of their own private views: a vice of other than Consular Reports, and notably of those published by Chambers of Commerce. His statistics, too, have always been ample in their range and satisfactory in point of accuracy. But it is to his own monographs, on special subjects, that Mr. Robertson's annual reports have owed their chief value. Whether the insertion of these extremely interesting chapters into the rather dry and monotonous yearly Blue-books is due to an order from the Foreign Office, or to a suggestion from H.B.M. Minister, we are not aware,—but we think the idea came from Downing St. Be this as it may, their interest is undeniable, and Mr. Robertson's have been among the best of their class. Passing over his first in the 1870 Report, on Currency, which we should certainly be surprised to hear was written by himself, and that on the

Lighthouse Department, in 1871, acknowledged to have been received from Mr. Brunton; we find him giving us, in 1873, a most admirable series of monographs, on Silk, Silkworm-egg cards, Tea, Tobacco, Wax, Hemp and Rice;—all crowded into one year's Report, but which, properly husbanded, would have floated as many successive Reports as he treated subjects. For, in the preparation of these, he consulted a variety of Japanese authorities, living and dead, and the results of his labours were a complete series of papers, which left very little more to be said upon the subjects of which he treated, and which ought to be transferred to the pages of some such standard work of reference as a Cyclopædia, instead of being interred in the pages of Blue books. And by no means the least interesting were the paragraphs with which he closed his Report, of the year mentioned, in which he more rapidly sketched the effect upon foreign intercourse and trade, upon the purchasing power of money upon wages, and upon the social economy of the people of the district with whom we were brought in contact. As a whole, this Report for 1873 is a perfect mine of information, and if Mr. Robertson had done no more, he might fairly rest upon it a claim to a high place among the authors who have written on Japan. But in 1874, he gave us an equally interesting paper on the growth of the lacquer varnish tree, the *urushi*, whose fruit produces vegetable wax, and its congeners, the *yama urushi* and the *tsuta urushi*; on the preparation of their sap into varnish and on the subsequent manufacture of the lacquer ware for which the country is so famous. Peripatetic pilgrims of pleasure who visit our ports in their scamper round the globe, and who spend so much money in the curio-shops, to get so small a return, would spare their purses and improve their collections by preliminary perusal of this paper before perfecting their purchases. In 1875 he took Mushrooms, Sugar and Cotton as his texts, and in 1876, having no more worlds to conquer on the main land, contented himself with writing an exhaustive review of the year's general trade. But he contributed to the Asiatic Society's library a monograph upon the Bonin Islands, which he had to visit officially in the spring of the year, and so literally exhausted the subject, that he left nothing to be said by a steamer-full of *savans* who paid another visit to them a few weeks ago. The liberal policy of the British Minister has given these Reports to the people most interested in them,—the mercantile communities of Japan—immediately after their transmission to him, instead of sending them only to the Foreign office, to return to us, some eighteen months too late, in the shape of Blue books, and we have therefore, another Report to receive, almost immediately, from Mr. Robertson's pen,—that on the Trade of 1877.

The leading columns of a publication like this Review should be only exceptionally used for personal sketches such as this. We are not of those who admire the *World's* 'Celebrities at Home,' which appear to us to be the very flower of rank vulgarity. A literary friend of ours, who used to write obituary notices for the *Illustrated News*, was induced to divert his talents into other channels, by the remonstrance that his *epitaphia* 'added a new terror to Death;' and if every prominent resident, as his departure from the port approached, had to dread a valedictory article in a weekly paper, the 'homeward smile' would fade from his face and the joys of his holiday be much curtailed. But it appears to us by no means unfitting that the *Japan Times*, which dedicates so much of its space to the discussion of purely commercial subjects, should take the opportunity of acknowledging the obligations under which commerce is laid by any author, and the accident of his holding an official position need act as no deterrent. Mr. Robertson, with singular good taste, has deprecated the expression of his friends' goodwill being manifested to him in a concrete form; but his

published Annual Reports of Trade are public property, and he may not complain at having to suffer one of the 'Calamities of Authors' in having his works reviewed. We will conclude by wishing him a pleasant vacation, and by tendering the hint that if he would employ some of his leisure hours in collecting and expanding his Notes on the Trade of Japan, so that we might have them in a more easily accessible form than they exist at present, he would confer a benefit on commerce and establish on a more permanent basis his reputation as an authority on Japan trade.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN the *Choya Shimbun*, last week, appeared an article supporting our arguments against disafforestation, and urging the Government to take our advice respecting the establishment of Forestry regulations:—the writer, in a postscript to his article, congratulating the country upon the fact—which he had heard while writing—that his recommendation had already been carried into effect. He gives us a few additional authorities and facts worth putting on record. Quoting Mencius, who wrote 'Axes must enter the forests only in limited times,' he rightly attributes to that sage, foreknowledge of the evils to come from disafforestation; and he also gives us the following forcible extract from a Japanese work by one Kumasawa Riyokai, respecting the calamities resulting from forest clearances:—

"The fact that there is lately a diminution in the evening showers on the west side of Harima is caused by the trees having been cut down. And when there is a refreshing shower occasionally in the summer evenings, if we watch the place where the cloud comes from, it is always from the thickly forested summits of the mountains in Awajishima."

The writer goes on to tell us that, when the Government commuted the pensions of the *Shizoku*, they gave away to them large grants of Government forest lands, rich in fine old timber, which has since been cut down for sale, without any discrimination or any attempt to replace what has been taken away; and he very properly urges that this ought to be stopped, and the thinning of woods, even private property, only permitted under proper inspection. Adducing the example of the China famine, as used by ourselves as a warning to this nation, and referring also to the effects upon rivers and riparian country, detailed in our essays, he sums up the evils of disafforestation under the following five heads. 1o., he says, good timber will gradually become scarce, and Japan will have to import from foreign countries house and ship-building materials; 2o., there will be less morning and evening showers of rain, (we fancy he means dew); 3o., the land will become dry, and the sources of rivers get empty; 4o., mud and sand will float down the rivers, and so choke their beds; and 5o., a valuable means of purifying the air will be lost, and the general temperature of the climate will be raised.

IT is very gratifying to see intelligent native journalists thus assisting foreign efforts to benefit Japan. A single article in such a paper as the *Choya Shimbun* has infinitely more effect than a dozen in our own columns. It has been a source of great regret to us that the native Government should have resisted the establishment of native papers conducted by foreigners, and that our own Minister should have endorsed their action. We can fully appreciate the motives which influenced both at the time; when the native press had recently so misbehaved itself as to have required repression, and when the Government's position as regards the whole population was more precarious than at present. But the evil that foreign-conducted native journals might, even then, have wrought, would have been overbalanced by the good they would have done; and foreign libel laws would have been amply sufficient restraint, particularly on Englishmen, living under an Order in Council and virtually unprotected by juries; and we think the arbitrary exercise of power then displayed was uncalled-for and harmful. Now, that the Government has been so confirmed in its seat by the suppression of the South-Western rebellion, that it is fully as stable as

that of almost any European State, surely some relaxation of the press-laws and particularly the abrogation of the regulation forbidding foreigners to contribute to the native journals, might be fitly and wisely permitted. The faster the native press grows, and the greater hold it acquires over the minds of the people, the greater becomes the need that it should be properly conducted. It is lamentable to note what false ideas on foreign commerce, especially, are being instilled, day by day, into their readers' minds, by the ill-informed and half-educated—frequently bigoted writers in the leading papers of the capital. For instance, hardly one of them can free his mind from the heresies that an import trade impoverishes a country, and that the precious metals are gauges of a nation's wealth. Who is to disabuse the people of these errors, so long as foreigners are debarred from writing in the native papers? The Government may—in all probability do—fear the inculcation of more liberal notions respecting politics than would be compatible with the security of the existing Venetian system. But the rulers of Japan should reflect that the forces which they dread, acquire strength very rapidly when repressed, and it would be far safer for them to permit their free expression. All foreign writers are not Radicals or Revolutionists, with a people's Charter, vote by Ballot, Triennial Parliaments, paid representatives, and Universal Suffrage as their *panacea* for all human ills. There are plenty of men who have studied history to better purpose; who would encourage the freedom of the Press, but restrain it from license, by precept and example; who lament the late extensions of franchise in England as dangerous errors, and foresee that universal suffrage must make shipwreck of the great American Republic; and who hate vote by Ballot as a means of demoralizing a people,—as an invention of the devil to tempt poor, honest men to fraud; and if the press in Japan were free, and foreigners allowed to contribute to it, we are sure that the country would greatly benefit, while Government men and Government measures would find no lack of competent foreign defenders when unjustly attacked. But we are exceeding the limits and extending the province of the 'editorial note,' and must change the subject.

FROM politics to earthquakes is not much of a transition. We intended to have published to day a translation of a list of the works consulted by Dr. Naumann during the preparation of his paper on earthquakes, part of which we printed last week, but unfortunately certain mechanical difficulties have occurred, which compel us to defer printing it until next week. This list is accompanied by notes explaining the contents of each work, and in some cases the period and locality with which it deals. These notes will be found of great use for future students, as the titles of Japanese books not unfrequently give no hint, or but a very vague one, as to their contents. It is with much regret that we find ourselves unable to publish the whole of Dr. Naumann's elaborate and scientific paper; but our readers can gather from this list of books what pains he has taken to collect and collate all the authorities obtainable on the subject. The part which we are compelled to omit consists of translations from these works—and gives a complete chronological list of all the earthquakes that have ever been noted in Japan by native observers: so that those whom the subject interests sufficiently, have only to get these books and translate them for themselves, to have their curiosity most amply satisfied. With the exception of manuscript works (which are very numerous among the Japanese) Dr. Naumann's may probably be regarded as a fairly complete catalogue of the native literature on volcanoes and earthquakes.

That it is no easy task to get together such a mass of literature on the subject may be gathered from the list of books used by Mr. Hattori, which is added to the interesting paper on the "Destructive Earthquakes of Japan," lately read before the English Asiatic Society. Nearly half the books named on this list are historical works, of general literature, which contain references to certain earthquakes; some few are also ordinary chronologies which are absolutely necessary, in order to render dates from the Japanese into the European Calendar; only the remainder, amounting to some thirteen or fourteen, can be properly included in a list purporting to give Japanese Earthquake literature. All the books in Dr. Naumann's list, with the

exception of the last three, which he calls "Auxiliary books," belong to that category.

We should be sorry, however, to be understood to criticize Mr. Hattori's paper in a carping or unfriendly spirit. We think that papers from native scholars, more especially when they are as valuable as his, should receive the heartiest welcome. We merely desire to point out a very striking difference between the two papers; a difference which would hardly be anticipated, and which certainly cannot deduct from the interest of Mr. Hattori's paper, although it speaks volumes for Dr. Naumann's energy and perseverance. Perhaps it is hardly fair to expect, in the volatile Japanese, the solid qualities of German philosophers.

WHEN writing, in other columns, on the Import Trade and the Drain of Bullion, our attention was chiefly directed to the latter subject. But the import of foreign goods seems to be as great a bugbear to the Japanese press; and we therefore recommend to the notice of those of our native friends who are alarmed at the growing taste of their countrymen for articles of foreign luxury, disclosed by a close examination of the trade returns, the following extract from Paley's Moral Philosophy:—

"It signifies nothing as to the main purposes of trade, how superfluous the articles which it furnish are—whether the want of them be real or imaginary—whether it be founded in nature, or in opinion, in fashion, habit or emulation; it is enough that they be actually desired and sought after. Flourishing cities are raised and supported by trading in tobacco; populous towns subsist by the manufactory of ribands. A watch may be a very unnecessary appendage to the dress of a peasant, yet if the peasant will till the ground in order to obtain a watch, the true design of trade is answered; and the watchmaker, while he polishes the case, or files the wheel of his machine, is contributing to the production of corn as effectually, though not so directly, as if he handled the spade or held the plough. Tobacco is an acknowledged superfluity, and affords a remarkable instance of the caprice of human appetite, yet if the fisherman will ply his net, or the mariner fetch rice from foreign countries, in order to procure to himself this indulgence, the market is supplied with two important articles of provision, by the instrumentality of a merchandise which has no other apparent use than the gratification of a vitiated palate."

M. CONIL Agent of the *Messageries Maritimes* S.S. Company, has been good enough to furnish us with a copy of the letter, (of which we give a translation) addressed to Captain Gulland of the *Glenartney*, on her arrival in Yokohama harbour; and of Captain Gulland's reply. The letter runs thus:—

Yokohama, 30th March, 1878.

To Captain Gulland,

the Officers, and crew of the *Glenartney*, Yokohama.

"GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned, members of the community of Yokohama, constitute it an honour as they deem it a duty, to testify to you their feeling of sincere gratitude for your noble and generous conduct towards the shipwrecked people of the *Meikong*, of the *Messageries Maritimes* Company, on the occasion of the loss of that vessel in the neighbourhood of Cape Guardafui.

"They are pleased that your arrival in Japan gives them the opportunity of becoming the exponents of the public gratitude; and, in now offering you their thanks and congratulations, they desire to assure you that the colony of Yokohama, which had many of its members among the passengers you succoured with such devotion and kindness, will always bear the *Glenartney* and the succour afforded by your aid, in constant and affectionate remembrance.

H. PIERRET. Consul du France.
A. Conil. Agent ppal des M. M.
H. de Girard Cap'ne du *Tigre*
A. Rolland Cap'ne du *Volga*.
&c., &c., &c.

This letter was signed by M. Pierret the French Consul, Mr. Conil, the officers of the *M. M. Tigre and Volga*, the other Foreign Consuls and all the principal firms and leading

citizens of Yokohama. Captain Gulland made the following modest and suitable reply:—

Glenartney S. S.

Yokohama, April 3rd, 1878.

A. CONIL Esq.,

Principal Agent of the
Messageries Maritimes.

"DEAR SIR:—I beg to thank you and the community of Yokohama for the address presented by you on the 1st instant to myself, officers and crew, and I can assure you that we all thoroughly appreciate your kindness.

"In rescuing the crew and passengers of the *Meikong* we only performed a duty which one man owes to another; and it gives us pleasure to think we have been the means of rendering assistance to our fellow creatures in time of trouble.

"I feel confident, that had we been placed in similar circumstances to the wrecked vessel, we should have received the same generous assistance and kindness from others."

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) W. A. GULLAND.

WE ARE again compelled to hold over the publication of No. 11. of our Law Reports: there is not yet sufficient matter to make up a number. On Wednesday, April 3rd. judgment was at last given in 'The Great Road Case,' as *Punch* calls it. The defendant pointed out that, as fifteen out of the sixteen questions had been answered by the jury in his favour, he thought this was sufficient in itself to secure judgment for him; especially as the portion of ground which the jury found did not belong to the original lot No. 95 was not the same piece as that claimed by the plaintiff Government. The plaintiff's counsel admitted that he could not obtain a judgment for the whole of his claim but contended that though he could not get a great road, there was still enough to make a little way towards it. In fact, though he had asked for an ell, he didn't mind taking an inch. He asked for judgment in favour of the plaintiffs for that part found by the jury to have been annexed to the lot since the first lease of it was made. The authorities cited by his Honour, in his charge to the jury, were—he argued—inapplicable to the present case: 1° because the equities which restrict the conveyances of property, as between individuals, do not bind the Crown; and 2° that these decisions were given in cases in which the transfer of freehold estates was in question:—that in Yokohama, land was leasehold, and as between the Government and the foreigner, the law of Landlord and Tenant must apply.

His Honour gave judgment for the defendants on the finding of the jury. He declined to deal with the question whether the lot was freehold or leasehold, as that was unnecessary to the decision of the present case.

The fact is, that the Supreme Court, in China and Japan, has always regarded the holdings in the settlements, here and in China, as leasehold property; and though the question has not been free from doubt, the Court has treated land as personal property for the purpose of attaching probate duty thereto. Now, fresh doubt seems to be thrown upon the question; and we cannot look for a final settlement of the matter until the executors of some departed land-holder come into collision with the heir, as to their respective rights. It remains for each and all of us to pray that it will not be our own particular 'hopeful' whom we shall leave—for his fellowmen's good—'heir to a chancery suit, and messuages and lands,' the value of which become, year by year, 'small by degrees, and beautifully less.'

REFERRING to our remarks last week upon the changes likely to be made in charges for international telegraph messages, we have to record the following Notification from the Kobusho (Public Works Department.)

NOTIFICATION No. 7.

(4th day, 4th month, 11th year of Meiji.)

"It is hereby notified that the existing rate of charges for International telegrams will be abandoned on and after the 1st day of the 5th month. (May 1st.) and that a charge of 20 cents (Mexican) per word for such

"messages, forwarded from or destined to any place what-ever in the Empire, will be adopted from the same date."

This refers of course to the charge for use of the Japanese lines, over and above that for use of the foreign wires; though the fact is not clearly stated. Twenty cents is a higher charge than we expected, and, it appears to us, higher than necessary: ten or twelve would have been fairer.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks, the favour granted to us by the *Japan Gazette*, of allowing us to extract from its columns the useful Monthly Trade Reports made up from the Customs' official returns, which we publish to-day. We have slightly re-modelled them, to suit our own columns, but the *Gazette* must be credited with the laborious compilation. This fresh proof of the activity and public spirit of its enterprising proprietors will, we trust, be properly appreciated by the mercantile community.

We put this table, this week, in place of our usual Market Report and quotations of prices. When, week after week, the only difficulty in writing on the trade of the place is to find new synonyms for 'dull' and 'depressed,' 'no sales' and 'nominal,' omission of remark at all comes with a certain smack of novelty. In Exchange, there was more than an average business done on Hongkong, a lac and a half having changed hands between the Banks at 1½ to 2 per cent discount, but this is the only transaction of the week which deserves report.

A LETTER from the Dutch Engineers employed by the Japanese Government on the works for the improvement of the Osaka river, objecting to our criticism of their labours, has reached us, unfortunately too late for publication in the current number of this Review. It will receive prominent publication next week.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 25th ulto. contains the following detailed notice of tree-planting going on there, which we are sure will be read here at present with interest:—

"We understand that, under the auspices of His Excellency the Governor, who has taken an active personal interest in the matter, the work of preparation of tree nurseries for future plantations on the hillsides of the island and Kowloon has just been brought to a satisfactory close, after three months of arduous labour and in spite of a somewhat unpropitious season. The seeds are principally those of the ordinary China fir (*pinus sinensis*), swamp oak (*casuarina equisetifolia*) cocoanut palms, coffee, Morecambe Bay chestnut, cryptomeria japonica, and various other hardy species in minor quantities. Nine nurseries have been established in the localities given in the following table, which also gives the quantity of seed sown and the estimated number of plants expected to be reared, due allowance being made for losses by failure of seed, bad weather, birds, insects, etc, but not by typhoon.

LOCALITY OF NURSERY.	AREA.		SEED		ESTIMATED
	ACRES.		BOWN.		
Kowloon Peninsula.....	8	.....	400	pints.....	6,400,000
Bowrington	2½	.....	122	"	2,100,000
Sookumpoo	3½	.....	220	"	3,500,000
Mt. Shadwell Valley	1½	.....	120	"	2,100,000
New Government Gardens.	2½	.....	41	"	700,000
Albany	0½	.....	82	"	1,400,000
Old Cemetery	2	.....	120	"	2,100,000
Pokfulum	2	.....	118	"	2,050,000
Aberdeen	3½	.....	40	"	700,000
Totals	26½	.....	1,253	"	21,050,000

"These nurseries are designed as centres of supply to the mountain districts in their neighbourhoods, but it is not intended to transfer the young seedlings to the hillsides until they are two years old or at least eighteen inches high.

"In addition to the foregoing, a belt of four thousand young cocoanut palms obtained from Manila will be shortly planted along the northern shore of Stonecutters' Island, and as an experiment, some bushels of fir seed have been scattered broad cast on the slopes of the hills above the Pokfulum Road along the line of the new conduit.

"The whole of the interesting work has, we understand, been ably carried out under the personal supervision of Mr. J. J. Cerneau, a French gardener and forester of considerable attainments lately in the service of the French Legation in Peking, and whose temporary and provisional services the Government were fortunate enough to be able to secure some months ago, pending the arrival of Mr. Ford, who returns to the colony in June next. The bulk of the fir cones were picked from the trees in the Island and from the scanty forests in the neighbouring islands; the latter, with the approval of the Viceroy at Canton, who was addressed through Sir Brooke Robertson and who issued orders to all the local mandarins to give the Hongkong foresters every assistance in their power in the collection of seed.

"We are glad to learn that the outlay of seed-gathering and rearing the young plants has turned out so much less than originally estimated by the Surveyor-General that the Government contemplates extending the scale of its operations very considerably next year, so that the long talked of wooding of the island bids fair to become a reality sooner than was expected.

"The estimated number of trees reared and planted out in past years has been about fifteen thousand per annum as against twenty-one millions this year, a somewhat startling jump, and one which will not be long in producing its effect; and in respect of variety, too, we think a marked improvement has been made in the extensive adoption of the beautiful cryptomeria of Japan and the graceful and feathery casuarina."

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 5th.

THE *Malacca* with the English mail of the 15th of February arrived in harbour this morning, one day ahead of time from England, but a day late from Hongkong. The *China* is expected hourly from San Francisco, having left there on the 4th ulto. and there are two more mail steamers from the same port en route for this, the *Oceanic*, which left on the 19th ulto. due here about the 11th inst., and the *City of Peking*, which sailed on the 1st inst. and is due here about the 23rd. The *Sunda* with the homeward English mail left on Tuesday morning last, due in London the 20th of May, and the *City of Tokio* is advertised to sail to-morrow morning at daylight for San Francisco. For the movements of coasting and China mail steamers we refer our readers to our Shipping Intelligence. We would remind them that in consequence of the change in the monsoon, there will be an alteration next week in the departures of the French and English mail steamers, the French leaving on the 9th and the English on the 10th. Afterwards the French and English mail will leave on alternate Wednesdays.

Again an uneventful week affords us scanty matter wherewith to fill this column. So far greater a degree of interest is felt respecting affairs in Europe than in any other part of the world, that, after glancing at the spot where some later telegram than that we have all seen a few hours previously, and generally finding none, we throw down the evening journal with—"as usual, nothing in the papers." Some excitement was caused late on Thursday afternoon, by the statement that news had been received in Yedo of a declaration of War by Austria alone, against Russia; but this was so utterly improbable, that hardly any one was deceived by the rumour, for which there seems to have been literally no foundation. It is an anxious time, indeed, for all of us, and the news of a declaration of War would be received with almost as much satisfaction, as relieving our suspense, as would be the news that peace had been patched up. A dilapidated, irksome sort of peace it would be, anyway, and our own conviction, we confess, is that war now would be better than such a mere truce, with inevitable war looming in a near future. But of this question, as of the changes in the English Cabinet and other matters of European politics, each little knot of our readers has its own ideas, aspirations and convictions, and all think they know more than they can be told; a frame of mind not precisely calculated to induce a journalist to take the trouble to expound his own special views. We therefore turn to subjects nearer home.

The streets of Yokohama do not present actually any signs of depopulation, but what a number of gaps we all note in our respective social circles. We have referred to Mr. Russell Robertson's approaching departure in another column, when reviewing his literary work: he will be much missed at many a dinner-table, as well as from the Consular Bench: Dr. Birnie Hill's numerous friends are entertaining him with the usual painful series of farewell dinners, and felicitating him on his promotion; and Yokohama will soon know no more Captain Buller of the *Modeste*. In the stirring times approaching, apparently, for the British fleet, so distinguished an officer is not likely to be allowed to remain long

ashore; but until he gets his flag, we suppose, we are not likely to greet him in these waters again. He, too, carries with him many a kindly wish, as he leaves behind the memory of many a kindly deed. The successors to both these officers arrived this morning by the English mail.

The English Admiral left Hongkong on the 3rd inst. in the *Audacious* and is to come hither direct. This will considerably strengthen the British squadron in this waters. On the other hand, we hear that two more Russians are lying at, or cruising near Kagoshima: but this rumour is untraceable to any reliable source. The native papers, by the way, are much exercised about the probable consequences to Japan trade, should war unhappily prove unavoidable: thinking apparently that a dozen Russian frigates can stop British commerce. There is not much cause for alarm on this score, but we shall say a few words on the subject next week.

The arrival of the *Glenarney* last week, gave this community the opportunity of discharging the pleasing duty of thanking Captain Gulland, his officers and crew, for the assistance rendered to the wrecked passengers of the *Meikong* last year, several of whom started from this port. We give a prominent place in our columns to the letter addressed to him and to his reply. It is all very well for Captain Gulland to deprecate our thanking him for doing his duty—but it is not always that duty is done so thoroughly, so unselfishly and so successfully, as when he checked his ship in her own race home, on a dangerous coast, to give the help he did; and he deserves all the praise and all the thanks that can be given to him.

An alarm of fire, of very curious origin, startled the church-going part of the community on Sunday while in the middle of their devotions. The *Gazette* gives the best account of it, and we will therefore take the liberty of transferring that paper's report to our own columns:—

"In a corner of the ground formerly occupied as a British Camp, close to the inhabited house on Lot No. 103 Bluff, stands a closed wooden shed over which still stands the inscription "Blacksmiths' Shop." Close to this, again, is a long open shed, easily accessible, in the present decrepit state of the fencing, from the road. Quite near to these two sheds, and at an angle between them, is the stump of an enormous tree, a *kusu-no-ki*, the circumference of which at the butt is from fifty to sixty feet. Possibly this tree is nearly half as old as the dynasty of the Mikado. From various parts of its ruins spring offshoots, many of them as big as good sized saplings. In the middle of the old mass are various hollows, of various size, eaten out by age and decay, and forming very convenient natural fireplaces. This is the purpose to which they have evidently been put, with the result that might have been anticipated: the first strong wind blew the smouldering fire into a blaze, which was certainly not dangerous in itself, but from its proximity to the above mentioned sheds in the same compound, and the back of the outhouses and the house itself, on No. 103, might have cleared the Bluff of houses thence as far as the British Legation. Fortunately it was discovered in good time, and firemen and police arriving in force, soon succeeded in mastering it. None too soon, however, for it might almost as well have started in a match factory. The buildings around it are as dry as tinder, and the open shed, and the space between it and the tree, were filled with a drift of rubbish and dry leaves."

We fully endorse all the deductions respecting the dangers to which police and municipal mismanagement expose us which our contemporary draws from this accident: and we earnestly trust that it will not slacken in the effort to procure reform which it has initiated and to which we alluded last week. We suppose, as soon as we have got rid of the mails next week, Messrs. Thorn and Darwin, the Choral Society's performance and all the farewell dinners and tiffins to departing friends, we shall hear something more of the proposed public meeting.

The state of the streets of Yokohama is become really a matter that our natural guardians, the Consuls, ought to take up. The trottoirs covered with heaps of building and road materials, the roads mended with such rubbish that the next shower of rain leaves them worse than before they were touched, not a single water-cart to lay the dust by day, not a lantern to indicate danger by night. With our old familiar *choching*, it was possible to find one's way home in those dark hours when only cats and compositors are abroad, but when bereaved of that companion we are indeed bereaved. As happened one wet night last week. Returning from enjoying Mr. Thorn's mystifications, to the *sanctum* where the midnight kerosine is burnt for the benefit of an unappreciative public, the *girikishia* man who conveyed him thither, preferred a petition to the writer (after he had been paid for his work, mark ye) that he would lend him his *choching*, his own candle having been burnt out, and he fearing the police if he went home without a light. His request was reasonable, his manner plausible and polite, and he promised faithfully to bring the lantern back next morning. The carter's reply to *Gadshill* in *Henry IV.* naturally suggested itself at the instant—"Ay, when? Canst tell?—Lend me thy lantern, quotha? Marry, I'll see thee

hanged first:—but then, according to recent writers on Japan the poor man might be a *daimio* who had commuted his pension, or at least a *karo* in reduced circumstances, so that the lantern was lent.

Never has that impecunious aristocrat reappeared with that *choking*, and our faith in the chivalry of Nippon is extinguished for ever.

Mr. Thorn is very clever, and we are extremely pleased to hear that he has found here audiences so appreciative of his talents, that he has decided to prolong his stay. His confidential little anecdote at the Gaiety Theatre on Tuesday night about the Shah of Persia, the Prince of Wales, and the silver ring trick seemed to hit the public; and doubtless, when he performs in Teheran, a similar reminiscence from the Court of the Mikado will be equally effective. Now, if our readers expect us to tell them how Mr. Thorn deceives them, they are much deceived themselves: people who go to see such a performance as his, go to be mystified and pay their money for that purpose. They are mystified:—with that let them be content. If all the tricks were explained to them—as they could easily be explained—for, really, as in any other art, a very few leading principles are the foundation of all mystifications of the *prestidigitateur*; what advantage would they gain? Their admiration of Mr. Thorn's performances would be greatly lessened, and the next wizard who attempted to amuse them would fail in his object. But though Mr. Thorn shows us nothing absolutely new, the grace and perfect finish of his handling have a charm of their own, which afford an all-sufficient pleasure. Even while he affects to show how a card is 'passed'—doing it slowly before one's very eyes, the king of diamonds seems positively to melt into the deuce of clubs, instead of being replaced by it; and that he has conquered the *ars celare artem*, and made the faculty a thoroughly obedient slave is best shown by the few card tricks which he exhibits, *en famille*, as it were, to the first row of the stalls. Next to his card tricks, Mr. Thorn's extraordinary facial contortions are the most remarkable part of his entertainment. With nothing but a tight fitting skull-cap, and adjustment of his own hair; without paint, wig or padding, he gives four living, breathing portraits of as many different types of misers, ending with that of the happy miser who has just found a shilling. Were this the only thing this very clever young gentleman does, it would be well worth going to see, for the manner in which at last, he makes his face into a dissolving view of all four faces in succession in plain sight of his audience is as ludicrous as it is uncommon. We wish Messrs. Thorn and Darwin a thoroughly successful season here and in Tokio: assuredly no one should miss seeing them before they finally take their departure.

Mr. Wirgman has favoured us with another number of *Punch*, and a very successful one. This artist, in his caricatures, is equally happy with Sydney Smith in his epigrams: his wit tickles, but never wounds; if he wrote his own text as well as drew his own pictures—or had he a *collaborateur* endowed with as much tact as is his own happy property, his periodical would be perfection in its way. As it is, his colleague is generally stupid, and always spiteful. '*Sed non curis*'—the quotation is something musty.

The Choral Society's performance, for the benefit of the China Famine Fund, is officially announced, and set for next Wednesday. As might be imagined, the seats in the house are already almost all taken; and the ladies and gentlemen who are taking so much trouble in getting up 'Trial by Jury' and 'Atchee' will have a large and appreciative audience. From all we hear, it appears certain that Yokohama will have such an evening's entertainment as it has never yet enjoyed.

An odd example of what we may call 'natural magic' has been brought to our notice this week. A short time ago a letter appeared in one of the daily papers from a correspondent, who said he had seen smoke issuing from the summit of Fujiyama. This was answered by another, who stated that it was not smoke, but snow drift from the sides of the mountain, carried into space by strong wind and thus giving the appearance of smoke. We are informed by a pedestrian who was close under the Hakone range on Sunday last, the atmosphere being intensely clear and brilliant, that these snow drifts would mislead any one unacquainted with the fact that the old volcano had ceased to be active: in fact our informant seemed inclined to be almost sceptical on the subject himself; the light airy clouds seeming to come out of the very crater both voluminous and continuous for some hours, corresponding in colour to the real smoke seen issuing from Vries, which was clearly visible to the left. Dr. Naumann notices how, for some months last year, the inhabitants of the country round the matchless mountain were alarmed by noises below ground and appearance of smoke from the sides of the peak. The smoke seems to be easily accounted for, may not its appearance have induced the people to imagine the noises?

As these notes of the week are being set up, the bell of the Roman Catholic Church gives notice of a fire, Ha! soon and happily over. It broke out at No. 10 on the bund, occupied by M. J. J. Fourcade, originating, as is so often the case, in the cook-house; the front door being broken open, willing hands soon carried a large quantity of furniture and stores to a place of safety, but it was not until the flames had got a good hold of the building, that inmates were discovered in a room in rear of the building, burning rafters already falling into the room whence they were conducted out by one of the volunteer firemen. At the outbreak of the fire, the premises were supposed to be untenanted. Two steam and several hand engines soon got the mastery, but before the engines began to play, the large block of buildings to the left was in considerable danger.

Spring comes very late this year. We had a day or two's rain and a day's sun, which brought out all the tender young shoots of vegetation with a rush; but now follow two or three days apparently cut out of February, as if 1878 had suddenly been deluded into the notion that he was a leap-year, and had omitted to take his privileges at the proper time: the burgeoning of the foliage is checked, the dicky-birds seem disheartened, skies and sea turn from sapphire to slate-colour, and deluded mankind, having left off its flannel waistcoats, goes about as if everybody was engaged in 'Atchee' and was constantly rehearsing his part. Which is unreasonable.

As we go to press, we hear with regret of the total loss of the British barque *Fire Queen* of Cape Ishinomake, Sendai, on her way to Hakodate with a large general cargo. Happily the crew were all saved.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 2. Where can I find any account of the ceremonies in use on the occasion of birth, death, or marriage, among the Japanese? Do any of the French, Dutch or German works on Japan contain such? I fail to find any information on the subject in English books. A work like Sir John Davis' "The Chinese" is a great desideratum in Japan.

(In process of answer.) B. H.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese?

(Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can he say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosei" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, Mr. Bramsen may be able to do the same for it.

2.—Copper was first coined in Japan, I believe, in the Wadô period (708-715); does Mr. Bramsen know whether the nominal values of the coins made then, and also up to the time of Nobunaga, were restricted to the same denomination as afterward? The Tempô was of course named in the Tempô period (1830-1844).

3.—Can he give any account of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c., I trust that Mr. Bramsen will pardon the liberty I take in addressing myself to him; but if he should ever put a query in "Notes and Queries" which I can answer (which is doubtful), I promise him that I shall do so to the best of my ability.

It may interest coin collectors to know that a collection of copper coins, which consisted of eighty-six specimens; four of which were said to belong to the eighth century of the Christian era, six to the ninth, two to the tenth, two

to the sixteenth, thirty-five to the seventeenth, and the remainder to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, was offered for sale a few months ago in Tokiō for twenty yen.

X.

Qr. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction.

B. A.

NOTES.

NOTE TO QUERY 8. (Copper coins of Japan). While unable at present to answer Nos. 1 and 3 of the questions addressed to me by "X," I may give him some information on the subject of his query No. 2.

Copper was probably coined in Japan somewhat before the period *Wa dō* (708—715). Already in *Haku hō*, 12th year (683) copper money is mentioned in a Government notification, ordering "that silver cash must be discontinued, and henceforth only copper cash used." At that time, however, no find of copper in Japan is yet mentioned, so it is reasonable to surmise, either that the copper cash then used were imported from abroad, or that they were coined in Japan from metal brought there from Corea, whence copper and other metals are repeatedly said to have been received, both before and after the period in question.

In the second year of the period *Bun mu* (698) copper was discovered in Japan, in *Inaba* and *Suwō*, and in the following year the *Chiu sen shi* (Coining office) was established. As certain old works give a drawing of a copper coin said to have been in use about that time, there can hardly be any doubt, that we have here a coin issued by the said "*Chiu sen shi*" some time before the period *Wadō*. The coin in question bears no characters, but merely four ornaments (flowers?) round the hole in the centre, and owing to this absence of inscription it is called *Mu mon dō sen*.

I subjoin a list of all the copper coins known to have been issued by the government:—

NAME.	TIME OF ISSUE.		NOMINAL VALUE.
	JAPANESE ERA.	A. D.	
<i>Mu mon dō sen</i>	Between <i>Haku hō</i> and <i>Wadō</i> ; probably in <i>Bun mu</i> 3rd year.	Between 672 & 708 probably in 699	1 mon.
<i>Wa dō kai chin...</i>	<i>Wa dō</i> 1st year	708	1 "
<i>Ban nen tsū hō...</i>	<i>Tem piyō Hō</i> 4th year	760	1 "
<i>Jin gō kai hō ...</i>	<i>Tem piyō Jin gō</i> 1st	765	1 "
<i>Riu hei yei hō ...</i>	<i>Yen reki</i> 15th year...	796	1 "
<i>Fu ju jin pō.....</i>	<i>Kō nin</i> 9th " ...	818	1 "
<i>Shō wa shō hō...</i>	<i>Shō wa</i> 2nd " ...	835	1 "
<i>Chō nen tai hō...</i>	<i>Ka shō</i> 1st " ...	848	1 "
<i>Niō yeki jin pō...</i>	<i>Jo guwan</i> 1st " ...	859	1 "
<i>Jo guan yei hō...</i>	<i>Do.</i> 12th " ...	870	1 "
<i>Kuwam pei dai hō</i>	<i>Kwam pei</i> 1st " ...	889	1 "
<i>Yen gi tsū hō ...</i>	<i>Yen gi</i> 7th " ...	907	1 "
<i>Ken gen dai hō...</i>	<i>Ten toku</i> 2nd " ...	958	1 "
<i>Ken kon tsū hō(1)</i>	<i>Kem bu</i> 1st " ...	1334	1 "
<i>Ten shō tsū hō...</i>	<i>Ten shō</i> 15th " ...	1587	1 "
<i>Bun roku tsū hō...</i>	<i>Bun roku</i> 1st " ...	1592	1 "
<i>Kei chō tsū hō...</i>	<i>Kei chō</i> 11th " ...	1606	1 "
<i>Gen wa tsū hō...</i>	<i>Gen wa</i> 3rd " ...	1617	1 "
<i>Kwan yei tsū hō...</i>	<i>Kwan yei</i> 13th " ...	1636	1 "
<i>Chō kio tsū hō...</i>	<i>Chō kio</i> 1st " ...	1684	1 "
<i>Hō yei tsū hō (2)</i>	<i>Hō yei</i> 5th " ...	1708	10 "
<i>Kio hō tsū hō ...</i>	<i>Kio hō</i> 1st " ...	1716	1 "
<i>Kwan yei tsū hō(3)</i>	<i>Mei wa</i> 5th " ...	1768	4 "
<i>Tem pō tsū hō (4)</i>	<i>Tem pō</i> 6th " ...	1835	100 "
<i>Bun kiu hei hō...</i>	<i>Bun kiu</i> 3rd " ...	1863	4 "

[N.B.—Not having the necessary accented letters at hand in this type, we have been compelled to supply their places by O and U. The appearance of the table is spoilt, but Japanese students will probably prefer these letters to unaccented ones. Ed. J. T.]

The above list does not contain 1st Provincial coins—as those of Sendai and Akita; 2nd Coins issued by private

(1) Now unknown.

(2) Also called *Tai sen*.

(3) Brass. Also called *Nami sen*.

(4) Also called *To hiyaku*.

individuals, as the *Gin tai tsū hō* (1703); 3rd Copper coins of which specimens were cast, without, however, being put into circulation, as the *Gen roku kai chin* (1693); and 4th, the numerous re-coinages of the *Kwan yei Ichi mon sen*.

"X" will see from this table, that until the beginning of the 18th century all copper coins were of the denomination of 1 Mon, while after that time coins of 4, 10 and 100 Mon were issued.

I may here mention that up to the *Ken kon tsū hō* the four characters which are found on one side of the coins, read in the following order 上; while those on the coins from the *Ten shō* and later periods are arranged thus 下.

The copper cash now in use are:—

<i>Kwan yei tsū hō</i>	Originally 1 Mon, now	10 Mon.
<i>Bun kiu hei hō</i>	" 4 " "	15 "
<i>Kwan yei nami sen</i> —(Brass.) ..	" 4 " "	20 "
<i>Tem pō tō hiyaku</i>	" 100 " "	80 "

Your correspondent "N. or M." takes exception to two statements made by me; 1st, that *Oban* and *Koban* were for the first time coined in the period *Tenshō* (1573-1591); and 2nd, that during the *Kenji* period (1275-1278) the only coins in use were copper cash. "N. or M." also enumerates a quantity of coins, all supposed to have been issued prior to the *Tenshō* period. The dates of the issue of these coins are, however, not so certain as "N. or M." seems to think: the "*Kin gin zu roku*," until quite lately the only work on the subject,—and from which I believe "N. or M." quotes the coins he mentions—has nothing definite to say about the majority of them. Thus the author says it is doubtful whether the "*Hidehira Koban*" was coined by *Hidehira*; the *Yeshikuan Oban*, though reported to have been coined by *Imagawa Yoshimoto*, was probably issued by a different person and in a later period; the *Sei chō* or *Shō chō koban* is by some people believed to date from the period of the same name, merely because the two characters 正長 are found on it, while others think it was coined at a more recent date by a person called *Masa-naga*, this being another pronunciation of the same two characters. (By the bye, is "N. or M." not mistaken in styling the *Koyasu koban* "the most highly ornamented of all the gold coins," for it is an extremely plain one, merely bearing the two characters "*Ko yasū*." Does he not mean the *Kodachi koban*, also called *Tsuchiura Kodachi koban*, which was very much valued on account of its beauty and finish?)

Whatever may be the dates, of issue of the gold coins enumerated, my statement was nothing but a quotation from the *Kin gin zu roku*, whose author in Vol. 1, on the first page after the introduction, says: "It is my opinion that gold *oban* and *koban* were first coined in *Ten-shō*." By this he probably means that in the said period *oban* and *koban* were first coined as currency; and while I will acknowledge that some of the coins mentioned by "N. or M." existed before *Tenshō*, I am convinced they were not current as a commercial medium. In proof of this, as well as of my second assertion, viz: that in the period *Kenji* only copper cash were used, I will quote the "*Dai Nippon Kuwa-hei shi*," a work in 26 vols, recently published by the *Okurashō*. Its author, Mr. Yoshida Kensuke, whom "N. or M." will of course acknowledge to be "a reliable authority," says in Part I, Vol. 3, page 18-20:

"In the third year of the period *Ken-ji* (1277) the Emperor *Go-uta* sent a merchant to China with Gold (i.e. uncoined gold), therewith to buy Copper cash."

"After that, the Shōgun *Ashikaga Yoshimitsu**, *Ashikaga Yoshinori* and *Ashikaga Yoshimasa*† likewise sent gold to China wherewith to purchase copper money."

"This shows that large quantities of gold were exported from Japan. Gold and Silver were, however, then not used as money in the shape of coins, but taken by weight in irregular pieces. Even if gold coins did exist, they must have been very scarce, and the use of precious metals was limited to ornaments on armour, saddles, swords etc. At times gold was given to prominent persons as a mark of distinction, and sometimes it was sent as a present to foreign governments. But the general circulating medium was only copper cash, which were quite adequate to the requirements of the time. Later,

* In the latter part of the 14th century.—W.B.

† Both in the earlier part of the 15th century.—W.B.

"however, it was found convenient to use gold and silver as currency; and about the period *Tenshō* some of the greater Daimiōs issued gold and silver coins in their dominions; and when the Government, from *Tenshō* up to *Kwanyei*, permitted foreign ships to trade in Japan and native vessels to go abroad, the importance of a gold and silver currency became still more manifest."

WILLIAM BRAMSEN.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XIV. THE LAPWING CENSER.

TWO things were certain: the first, that though the total of the sum in the palace Treasury remained the same, the units composing it had been changed; the second, that the history of this change was known to the Regent.

Of the latter fact Ishida was made cognizant by certain expressions Taiko let fall during an interview with Sir Tajima, the monitor, who, sick at heart and physically broken down, came a few days after the examination of the Treasury and asked permission to resign his post. He did not utter a word that accused the Minister, but when Taiko, finding him unnecessarily hopeless of his own recovery and persistent in his entreaties for the appointment of a substitute, told him that if the nobles repaid and the monitors resigned, Hidetsugu would in the end find himself without either allies or advisers; Sir Tajima replied significantly:—"Your Highness' adopted son is independent of everything but his father's favour."

Either, however, through reluctance born of affection, or because action would have involved processes too minute to be dignified, this knowledge of the Regent's remained without apparent fruit. Ishida therefore, recovering from the momentary paralysis of dread, began to be quickened by his old desires, and set himself to consummate a scheme contrived so as to reach no further than Hidetsugu's banishment; for the Minister's household might follow him to death but not into exile.

But every day added to the Regent's life multiplied the Lady Yodo's impatience. A woman's intuition disclosed to her Sir Ishida's irresolution; a mother's solicitude determined her to stimulate it.

The Baron had not visited her for three days, nor had he, they said, been at court: an absence which, if further prolonged, would become remarkable. Tomorrow no doubt must bring him to Fushimi, and with this hope she was fain to be content.

But the morrow rose wet and gloomy: a summer rain hurrying down busy and impetuous, as though conscious of the parched eagerness that awaited its advent.

The ladies of the court sat, some reading, some listlessly watching the crystal drops as they crept into the hollows of the lotus leaves, or the sparrows as with querulous twitter they shook the rain from their ruffled feathers. A few, with scissors and paint-brush, were busily engaged in constructing a paper effigy to recall the sunshine, and five or six of the youngest were examining a picture, which they passed from one to the other, and about which each was expressing her opinion so excitedly that their animation attracted Lady Yodo's attention.

"You seem to have something very interesting there, Matsū," said she addressing one of the fair disputants, who was pointing with her hairpin to a figure in the picture, and speaking with all the volubility of a woman when she dreads interruption.

"Your Ladyship," cried another of the girls, "Matsū maintains that this picture represents a scene from the life of 'the three days' King,' just as if all the world would have suddenly become excited about such a matter."

"Is all the world excited about it then?" asked Lady Yodo.

"So it would seem, your Ladyship. The person who gave me the picture said that nearly everyone in Kiyoto has a copy of it."

"And who may the person be, Miss Yuki?" enquired Lady Yodo, smiling:—

"Sir Ishida's head agent, of course, your Ladyship," cried two or three of the girls in the same breath, clapping their

hands with delight at the blushing confusion their words caused poor Yuki.

"Sir Ishida is then at court today," thought Lady Yodo, as she took the picture and began to examine it.

Two scenes were represented. On the right, surrounded by some thirty or forty ladies, a nobleman, evidently of the highest rank, sat beside a lovely girl of sixteen or seventeen, who was in the act of handing him a wine-cup, and underneath was written this verse:

"In woman's lot, unequal fate,

"Thy partial laws are shown,

"Her joy she gives to glad her mate,

"Her grief is all her own."

On the left, a middle-aged woman of graceful mien and beautiful features, kneeled before a shrine, holding in her hand a votive tablet, on which the painter, with great skill, had reproduced the young cup-bearer of the opposite group. Here was subscribed the following couplet:

"Human or brute shall he be styled

"That makes the mother curse her child?"

All this was as enigmatical to Lady Yodo as to her attendants, but it inspired her with more curiosity, for in the nobleman's face she fancied that the recognised Hidetsugu's likeness. While she was busied with conjectures, Sir Ishida entered.

He denied all knowledge of the picture when it was first showed to him, but seeing that he had answered almost without reading the verses, Lady Yodo understood that his denial was dictated by expediency. She therefore desired her attendants to withdraw, and as soon as she found herself alone with Sir Ishida, repeated her question.

"Madame," he said, "the story this picture represents is almost too disgraceful to be credible. The wife of a gentleman banished from court some time ago, subsequently entered the household of a certain nobleman at Kiyoto. The woman had a daughter Miya, aged sixteen, and seeing herself comfortably settled, her thoughts naturally reverted to her child. Miya was sent for, and came to live with her mother. But her beauty, which was very great, attracted the nobleman's attention, and he made her also his concubine, giving the two separate apartments, indeed, but not the ability to forget they were human beings. The daughter was in the spring of life, the mother in the autumn, and their master's affections soon began to be so unequally distributed, that the mother became her daughter's suppliant for a share of the heart she had once possessed entirely herself. Her prayers were answered with contempt and disdain, so that in the end, to the loss of her child and her lover, she added that of her reason, and invoked the curses of the gods on her own daughter's head. Her's is the figure on the left kneeling at the shrine, while the group on the right represents the daughter, the nobleman and the other ladies of his household."

"Can it be possible that such inhumanity exists among human beings?" said Lady Yodo, horrified.

"Your Ladyship's reflection is the same that dictated the shorter of these couplets," replied Ishida, pointing to the writing on the left of the picture.

"But surely the story can contain but a very small grain of verity?"

"Things are not less true because they are repulsive, Lady Yodo. The picture not only represents a reality, but a reality in the life of the Prime Minister himself."

Yodo had anticipated this announcement, but not the storm of jealous rancour into which it stirred her woman's nature. "Oh! that we women were freed," she cried, "from the conventionality that relegates our nobler impulses to the region of gossip and inaction! Better be blind and senseless than thus, with open eyes and beating hearts, be obliged to respect those who tolerate such a disgrace to their manhood and their nation. Has the Regent no longer a counsellor, Sir Ishida, nor justice an ally?"

"Madame," replied the Baron, quite unmoved by this vehement appeal, "the graver the crime, the clearer must be the proof and the more deliberate the judgment. It often happens, that in trying to precipitate justice, we disable it completely."

"Is not this picture ample proof?" demanded Lady Yodo, for Ishida's judicious reserve had driven her to the extreme of credulity. "Who could conceive or dare to promulgate such a story, were it false? And even if it be a falsehood, is there not all the more reason for immediate investigation? But enough," she continued, folding up the picture and

putting it in her girdle. "If your pale prudence cannot be warmed into action by either loyalty or affection, I will take my own measures. Taiko perhaps will be less delicately scrupulous."

So spake Lady Yodo, flushed with indignant purpose, and little knowing that Ishida himself had caused this picture to be painted and distributed. But he, divided between amusement and surprise at the ardour that swept its own author into oblivion, like the foam surging over and hiding the rock that causes it, instead of attempting to convince Lady Yodo of his sympathy, found himself contrasting these rich overflowing emotions, this exuberance of womanhood, with the tender grace of the image his heart worshipped. For Yodo, handsome, blooming, and nobly proportioned, had gathered from nature and experience a wealth of passion and pathos, that in repose surrounded her with a soft, voluptuous lustre, but in times of excitement, glowed and flashed into the most ardent vitality.

"The picture would amply justify a remonstrance from your Ladyship," he said, "but it would scarcely warrant an official representation from us. Should the Regent question us, indeed, we may find means of confirming any opinion your Ladyship has already suggested."

Nevertheless when Taiko, at a secret meeting of his Council the next day, sought some information about the picture, Ishida was one of those who professed complete ignorance. He was now acting a part to which the rôle of intercessor might not be inaptly added hereafter.

The Councillor Nagatsuka alone replied to the Regent's questions; nor did he mention any names, but merely explaining the mutual relation of the various figures in the painting, added that men who were versed in such matters, regarded this picture as the forerunner of some national catastrophe to be induced by the inhuman crimes it depicted.

"These creations of rumour," said Ishida, are only magnified by observation, while on the other hand they contain in themselves the germ of confirmation or contradiction. I should counsel Your Highness to make no enquiries, but let the truth develop itself."

But Taiko, already taught by Lady Yodo, gathered assurance from this very reticence, and now for the first time began openly to discuss the advisability of removing Hidetsugu.

As soon as Ishida had satisfied himself of this mood of the Regent's, he sent Seta Kamon again to the Palace of Pleasure.

Received as before in the Tea Pavilion, Seta congratulated the Minister on the happy termination of the Treasury examination, and then, presenting him with a copy of the fatal picture, described the effect it had produced at court. The Regent, he said, was so exasperated, that he refused to make any official enquiry, declaring that he did not choose to run the risk of evoking another perjury. A father least of all should suffer such crimes in his son, and despite the courtiers' entreaties, he had resolved to take the most extreme measures. Seta therefore counselled Hidetsugu to anticipate this catastrophe by sending his monitors at once with a distinct denial of the imputation.

But unfortunately the imputation was true, and Seta Kamon's intelligence only confirmed a resolution that had long been maturing in the Minister's mind. He dismissed his visitor with a courteous expression of thanks, and not the slightest evidence of consternation or concern; so that Seta, on his return, could only describe his own astonishment to Sir Ishida.

"Such composure conceals a purpose" remarked Ishida. "We may leave the rest to the Minister himself." And he was right.

His day's duty completed, Fuwa Bansaku left the palace but a few moments before Seta Kamon. On his way home he alighted from his horse to greet Ishikawa Goyemon, whom he met in the street after a separation of many months. "Our evil fate was abroad, and brought us all together on that day," said the comptroller in after times, and with much show of reason.

The two men had separated, and Bansaku was about to remount his horse, when a messenger arrived recalling him to the palace. He obeyed, but not without misgivings, for in those days Hidetsugu's most devoted vassals lived in a state of apprehension that everything extraordinary quickened.

The memory of a half-uttered treason revisited him with painful distinctness, when he found himself, in his master's presence. All the circumstances of his interview two months before found their counterpart to-day. A warmer breeze in-

deed, a louder hum of insects, the mimosa blooming in the cherry's stead and the iris in the azalea's, but for the rest, the gloaming, the Tea Pavilion, the solitude and the Minister's troubled aspect: every component of a scene that sorrow had preserved unfading, and superstition shuddered to see renewed.

Yet one difference there was, and Bansaku detected it almost immediately. Hidetsugu's vacillation had disappeared. Beckoning the comptroller to his side, he showed him the picture, and repeated Seta Kamon's story briefly and in a tone that forbade comment. Then, looking full in his vassal's face, he said:—

"To-day decides my fate: whether I shall conquer and live, or submit and die. Bansaku, which shall it be?"

"Your Excellency, spare me the pain of a question that proves how little you trust me," replied Bansaku, raising his head, and nerving himself to meet the crisis he felt approaching.

"You told me once," continued Hidetsugu with the same set, unflinching accent, "that I might command your life. I have never until this moment conceived any circumstances that could persuade me to accept your offer, but I do so now."

It was impossible to misconstrue the expression of the comptroller's face at that moment. To leave the world with the thanks of his benefactor sounding in his ears, and the hope of preventing a disgrace he now regarded as almost inevitable: what prospect could be pleasanter to this man of inimitable faith and fearlessness? If Hidetsugu's purpose wavered a moment, it was surely when that look of generous joy sharpened the sorrow of sacrificing so much that was noble and chivalrous.

"If I succeed in my design," he resumed, "success will justify my conduct to the world, but to myself, not the certain loss of my rank and life, and scarcely the consequent calamity of the nation seems a sufficient warrant. Yet since history finds nothing but praise, for Taiko who shot his brother, and Takeda who exiled his father, to help the people in their peril, and since this is certainly a crisis of no less moment, I too have chosen between my father and my country."

Here for the first time Hidetsugu seemed to find himself embarrassed. He turned his head away and continued with painful effort:—

"Bansaku, a single deed, easily and quickly accomplished, will constitute you the benefactor of the people, the Regent and myself. You have but to make your way into Taiko's room to-night, and shortening his life by, it may be a year, it may be a few months, prevent him from achieving a mistake that would not only recall the anarchy and bloodshed of past years, but tarnish the fame of his own greatness. You have an art that makes this possible, and I firmly believe that fate taught it you for this end. (Can I count on your devotion, or will you too desert me in the hour of peril?)"

But Bansaku, trembling with horror, had hidden his face and for a long time made no attempt to reply. When at last he spoke—in a low broken voice so changed that Hidetsugu started and looked round in astonishment—it seemed as though his words were less a reply to the Minister than an appeal to his own waning faith.

"It was spoken without reflection," he muttered, "Surely without reflection and in the confusion of the spell their sorceries have wrought. The highest office a subject can attain, the guardianship of the Emperor himself; all this the gift of Taiko, and all this to end in ingratitude and murder!" Then suddenly flashing into a fervour of instance and expostulation, he cried:—"Have I no strength to turn your Excellency from this purpose? Will you not rather bid me strike those that stand between your father and yourself; those whose plots and slanders have for a moment estranged the affection that adopted you and made you what you are? Will the Regent's death rid you of these, your real enemies? The Gods will not bless you, the people will not reverence you, and peace will never visit you after such an act."

"All these reflections have been powerless to prevent my resolution as they are now to shake it," replied Hidetsugu. "But you, you have effected what no argument or consideration could have achieved. For I tell you that, deserted by the one friend in whom I trusted; abandoned by the one servant whom I believed for ever bound to me by ties of gratitude and fealty, I have no more strength to struggle against my fate; no heart to prolong this bitter existence."

Bansaku, with his head bowed upon the ground, writhed at these words like a man in agony, but did not speak or look

up. During the silence that ensued he was conscious of some movement beside him, and presently he heard his master's voice saying:—

"You have refused my last request, Bansaku. I now call on you to obey my last order. You will perhaps remember hereafter that the final act of my life was destined to save you from the consequences of my disgrace." *

Bansaku sprang up, terrified by these solemn accents. Hidetsugu, his features contracted with anguish and resolution, his eyes bloodshot, and a ghastly pallor deepening on his face, had bared his breast and holding a naked poniard in his right hand, pushed a sword towards the comptroller with his left.

"Come Bansaku," he whispered hoarsely, "the stroke will cost you little effort and gain you many thanks," and so saying, he raised the sword so that its hilt touched the comptroller's fingers.

But Bansaku, shrinking from the contact as though it scorched him, fell rather than prostrated himself before his master.

"Forgive me," he said, "if I hesitated a moment. Your Excellency knows well that neither in life nor in death will I ever desert you. If it must be so; if indeed there is no other remedy, command me for good on for evil. The Regent was once my master," he continued with a groan of inexpressible anguish, "and the just gods will bear me witness hereafter, that not to save everything I love in the world from torture and death would I have stretched out a hand of menace towards him. But my curse is that I must choose between your Excellency and him, and I swear that the everlasting punishment of this unfilial and unfaithful deed shall not deter me if you will it otherwise."

The grievous pain this avowal caused Bansaku did not escape Hidetsugu. He laid his hand with much show of affection on his vassal's arm, and said earnestly:—

"Your devotion has given me what I well know the whole world could not have purchased. Be assured that you have my fullest appreciation and gratitude for the gift, though I could almost wish fate had never made us master and vassal, when I see the sorrow this relation has brought you: But our resolution is taken. Let us waste no more time in these reflections. The more speedy the execution, the more certain the success."

"Success! Your Excellency," replied Bansaku. "I have little, very little hope of success in this matter. I can, I believe, make my way safely through the sentries and bodyguards, but beyond all these there is a difficulty that seems insurmountable."

"The phantom of ill-fame, that stands between superstition and enterprise, I suppose," said Hidetsugu half-sneeringly.

"Your Excellency, he that engages himself to commit a crime, adds but little to his guilt by perpetration. I have promised; and though I can no longer claim the credit due to an honourable man, I could at least have hoped that my want of confidence might not now be attributed to reluctance."

"Pardon me, Bansaku," said the Minister. My words were not suggested by doubt, but simply by the memory of our former conversation. What then is this difficulty you dread?"

"Has your Excellency never heard of the 'Lapwing censor'?" demanded Bansaku in surprise.

"Yes," replied Hidetsugu, "I have heard it described by Lady Yodo, if I remember rightly."

"Then your Excellency is no doubt acquainted with its properties?"

"I cannot say that I am," Hidetsugu answered. "Though your question reminds me of some story they tell about a Lapwing's cry heard at times in the castle by night. But these fables that assign vitality and animation to the artist's creations are a very old method of paying tribute to genius."

"If that were all, your Excellency," objected Bansaku, shaking his head incredulously, "why should the Regent cause the censor to be placed by his bedside every night, as he has done for the last four years?"

"Simply because utility is the offspring of use," answered Hidetsugu, seeking to impart a tone of confidence to his words, for he saw that the comptroller's conviction was deep-rooted. "Men avoid a snake if they believe it to be poisonous, though they would crush it under foot if they knew it harmless. And so, too, Taiko's censor probably owes its efficacy to a superstition fostered by the Regent himself."

* Suicide at this period would probably have secured the Minister's vassals against being involved in his punishment.

"No, no, your Excellency," replied Bansaku, quietly putting aside this explanation. "There is evidence that proves the censor's properties beyond a doubt. So surely as a foot crosses the threshold of His Highness' room after night-fall, so surely the Lapwing's warning cry is heard."

It mattered little whether this story was true or false, so long as Bansaku believed it, and Hidetsugu not only acknowledged this, but felt his own scepticism violently shaken by the comptroller's assurance. He had heard much about this Lapwing censor, very much more indeed than he cared to confess at that moment, and though he scoffed at the idea of anything miraculous, it was, after all, easier to conceive that the censor concealed some subtle mechanism, than to attribute its history entirely to imagination. At any rate, though Bansaku's faith in such a supernatural guardian might not deter, it would certainly deprive him of the most vital auxiliary in all enterprise, confidence.

"There must be no possibility of failure, Bansaku, or at least we must omit nothing that may help to obviate such a possibility," said the Minister earnestly, for at that moment fancy conjured up an appalling picture of his faithful servant taken prisoner, and the truth torn from him by some insufferable torture. "It cannot be that this embarrassment is insurmountable."

"No, your Excellency," replied Bansaku, "a science by which all such talismans may be neutralized exists, they say, but I possess none of its secrets. There is one man whose aid I believe would be effectual, could we only command it, but certainly my own request alone would not suffice for that purpose."

"To whom do you allude, Bansaku?" demanded Hidetsugu. "Perhaps the deficiency of your influence may be supplied by the Prime Minister's."

"Ishikawa Goyemon, who taught me the art I am now to employ, answered Bansaku. "If I have authority to use your Excellency's name, I think I can promise to succeed with him, for though he has refused all my offers, he will surely find something to ask for when the Prime Minister is the giver."

"Use my name for all that it is worth, and so long as it is worth anything," said Hidetsugu with a melancholy smile. "When everything is at stake, nothing need be grudged."

Ishikawa Goyemon was then living in one of the least, populous suburbs of Kiyoto. His house stood at the verge of a lofty plateau, whence, across a myriad-meshed network of street and structure, the eye reached a wide belt of woodland, homestead and garden, pleasantly interspersed and blending into a shadowy similitude at the feet of the distant mountains. The selection of this retreat was the one concession Goyemon had made to his past habits in abandoning them. Not because he loved to watch the breath of the awakened world steal softly up the hill-slopes in the morning and creep back, wan and ghostlike, to the bosom of the valley at sunset; nor yet because the breeze came from the south fresh and unobstructed, or broken only by the pulses life throbbing up from the heart of the great city below; nor yet because in winter the snow, and in summer the sun, sparkled on forests of high peaked roofs, and long lines of rampart and buttress separating magnificence from the multitude, but simply because this was the loftiest spot in the metropolis, and as little included within the boundaries of any fosse or monument as the career of the bandit chief had been trammelled by rule or routine. It was indeed a delight, not less keen because it was derisive, to look down calmly at the arena where he had played so conspicuous and yet so unsuspected a part, and from which at the last he had sauntered away with a full purse and a smiling lip; a dainty satisfaction to listen to the hum and tumult of the greedy multitudes, as they struggled and toiled to accumulate the ingots of which so many had passed, unearned, into his hands. He had dismissed his followers and discarded his craft, not at the instance of prudence or content, but because the very feeble spark of aristocracy that still smouldered in his nature had been fanned by success into a finer ambition than a brigand's trade could satisfy; an ambition which fate, of reaching its results through inconsistent processes, made use of to accomplish one of the cruellest destinies ever conceived or recorded.

Bansaku, well knowing the intractable nature with which he had to deal, resolved to waive considerations of rank and etiquette, and proceed himself to visit Ishikawa. Dismissing, therefore, all his retinue with the exception of one confidential servant, he left the palace on foot, guided by the information he had so opportunely obtained that very day.

It was nearly midnight before he reached his destination, and more than once his servant cautioned him against dangers that seemed to menace them on the way, for their route led them at times through lonely and deserted parts of the city. But these warnings found Bansaku indifferent if not reckless. On one occasion indeed, when the feeble starlight showed them two figures shrinking behind the trunk of a huge pine that narrowed the path, the comptroller, peremptorily ordering his follower to halt, advanced himself and passed slowly under the shadow of the tree, not an arm's length from the point of peril, and if at that moment the sword of an enemy or an assassin had saved his honour from impending ruin, Bansaku would assuredly have died with a heart full of gratitude. But fate had no such kindness in store for him.

Ishikawa, roused from sleep, welcomed the Prime Minister's chief comptroller just as though his visit was the most natural thing in the world. "He comes to ask some favour of me," he said to himself, and I shall take care that this profitless condescension does not enter into the balance of inducement." There was little need, however, for such diplomatic reserve with the simple-hearted comptroller. It is questionable whether at any time he had accredited his own dignity with half the influence it really commanded, and now certainly, the shadow of self-accusation had so obscured all the brightness of his titles, that every honest man seemed a noble in his sight.

"You have chosen a very remote spot for your retreat, Ishikawa. I almost think I should have deferred my visit until daylight, had I anticipated such a journey," said Bansaku, dropping his eyes as he spoke, for even in this involuntary disingenuousness he recognized with shame the first evidence of his dishonour.

"You must have found the way rather a tedious one, Sir Bansaku," replied Goyemon, "if it had no object but to visit an old acquaintance."

The comptroller started at the discourteous rebuke these words implied, but already well accustomed to his host's insuavity, he replied quietly:—

"My object, if successful, would well warrant these and even greater pains, for I come to renew my old offers, this time, however, on no uncertain basis, but with the authority of the Prime Minister himself; and I assure you it would give me the greatest pleasure to see you attached to a service where you could not fail to distinguish yourself."

"Sir Bansaku," answered Goyemon taking little trouble to conceal his impatience, "your kind motives demand my thanks, but I have not altered my resolution of remaining independent. I refused your offers when they simply pointed to the career of a gentleman, and I am still less disposed to accept them now with the adjunct of I know not what hidden purpose, for it can be no commonplace motive that induces the Prime Minister to exchange his claims to be sought, for the chances of a seeker. I am surprised that believing me so credulous you think me worth soliciting."

He was certainly a difficult and ungracious subject, this Ishikawa. So harsh and selfish, that he excluded instinctively every element of sentiment or geniality from his calculations, and saw all the world shaping its course by the same unscrupulous, egotistical creed as himself. Bansaku felt that the seed of his past kindnesses hardly deserved to bear such ungrateful fruit, but this momentary feeling of umbrage had no expression, for the consciousness of a criminal purpose often renders the most independent natures obsequious.

"Whatever else may change, Ishikawa," he said, smiling. "Your nature will always be the same. To speak plainly, however, I have not come with any offers of ordinary service. There is no man, great or small, just or evil, who has not at some time cherished some hope apparently hopeless, and if many die without achievement, it is because they have let slip their one opportunity of achieving. We, on our side, have a service to ask and you, on yours, have no doubt a wish to gratify. The accomplishment of the service is, I know, within your capabilities, and the satisfaction of the wish can hardly exceed the Prime Minister's powers. This is the exchange I propose to you.

Goyemon looked at his visitor with an astonishment that men did not often see him display.

"My answer shall be even clearer than your proposal, Sir Bansaku," he replied. "The first nobleman in Japan, His Majesty's Prime Minister, sends a nobleman, his chief

comptroller, at the dead of night with only one attendant, to search out and satisfy the hypothetical desires of one Ishikawa Goyemon, a nameless commoner. What is the conclusion to be drawn from this marvel? That you have need of my life. You cannot wish to purchase the services of my sword, the times being peaceful, nor yet the services of my secret art, for it has already been imparted to you. So be it then; Sir Bansaku. I am content to barter my life, but I reserve my discretion till you have explained your conditions."

"You look a little beyond the truth, Ishikawa," answered Bansaku. "My version of the position is simply this. The will of a superior has two methods of expression: the first, a command enforced by a penalty, the second a promise supplemented by a request. When such an one as the Prime Minister condescends to adopt the latter course, it becomes necessary to provide against every possibility of refusal, and this necessity rather than the nature of the service we seek, induces us to offer so much. To be candid, Ishikawa," continued the comptroller with an air of good faith that could not fail to convince, "we cannot possibly solicit your acquiescence till after you have obtained ours. It can cost you nothing to explain your wishes, so long as they are honourable; while on the contrary, mortification and indignity may be the result of a premature confidence on our part."

"You are right, Sir Bansaku," said Goyemon after a moment's reflection: "right both in your reasons and in your conjectures, for I have a wish, and strange an one as it may seem, neither its statement nor its refusal will cost me a particle of discomposure. I desire to be appointed to some office at the Imperial Court, not inferior to that which the Prime Minister himself once held. * Ready money or revenues, estates or titles are matters of complete indifference to me."

The purport of these words no less that the tone in which they were pronounced, induced the comptroller at first to believe that Ishikawa had merely enunciated some random extravagance of his fancy, with the design of preventing any further negotiation. But a closer scrutiny convinced him that however irrational, his host's proposition had certainly been advanced in good faith.

"Surely, Ishikawa," he remonstrated, "you cannot seriously have conceived an ambition so utterly at variance with every rule of precedent or promotion. We have indeed no lack of men who 'from the mud have risen above the clouds,' but never at a single leap. There has always been some gradation, some reasonable order of progress. Is it possible to believe that a result so suddenly reached would be either permanent or tolerated?"

Ishikawa laughed heartily at the comptroller's bewilderment. "I ought perhaps to tell you, Sir Bansaku," he said, "that ambition, so called, has nothing to do with this wish of mine. Certainly I should not be sorry to see the edict that degraded my ancestor, Sir Sayemon, revoked, but for myself I only desire the privilege of access to the Emperor's palace, and that with the sole object of obtaining the hand of one of the twelve Maids of Honour. This is my one and only desire, and it has so long tenanted my heart that its accomplishment alone can expel it. Such as you see me, I am not without means, ample means, to gratify my most luxurious fancies, but the possession of a Maid of Honour is the fastidious limit I long to reach. Grant me this, and the Prime Minister may dispose of me afterwards as he pleases."

It was now Bansaku's turn to laugh. He clapped his hands merrily, delighted to find a vulnerable point in Goyemon's intractability. Viewed from this aspect, the proposition seemed much less startling, and certainly comprised nothing that exceeded the Prime Minister's power.

"Now that you tell me your wish," he said, "I am surprised at not having penetrated it before. A mind that has never been constrained to obey anything but the phantasies of its own creation, may well have shaped itself such a romantic ambition as the possession of the pearl of womanhood. It will however be no easy matter, Ishikawa, the consummation of this wish of yours, but I think I can promise you success, provided you achieve the service we have in view. Meantime I will ask you to accompany me to my house, and remain there till I have obtained the Minister's consent, after which I will explain the nature of His Excellency's commission."

* *Chimagon*, or Censor.

"Fulfill my condition, Sir Bansaku, and you may order me to China or India, or dispose of me in any way you please," said Goyemon stoutly, and the two men took their way to the comptroller's house.

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT ON OUR TRADE IF WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT BETWEEN ENGLAND AND RUSSIA?

LET our readers took at the recent telegrams from Europe. The disputes between England and Russia have reached a most serious point: and in the event of war, Austria would certainly assist England in attacking Russia; and though France and Germany may diligently strive to maintain neutrality; still it is not probable that they could, for long, remain idly looking on, and should they take either side, there would then eventuate a general European war, and indeed a great confusion of the whole world. Even though France, Germany and other countries were able to remain neutral, still—if England and Russia began to fight, it might still be said that, as regards trade, the whole world would be thrown into confusion. And why? Because the means of transportation, of the greatest importance to all foreign trade, would be lost. Englishmen have said that: 'if their merchant-vessels ceased to navigate, the trade of the whole world would be almost stopped.' Although these are, of course, vaunting words, still—as the English possess nine-tenths of the merchant-ships of the world,—as we are well aware, we cannot absolutely say that they are wrong.

But as soon as war is declared, as it cannot be known where the Russian men-of-war may be sailing, Insurance Companies would not make contracts for marine insurance on English merchant-ships, and thus no one will dare to send goods by them, which would, at last, put a stop to all navigation; for, as it would be impossible to know the decision of France, Germany, &c., respecting the quarrel, only very small quantities of goods would be sent in vessels belonging to those countries. And if mercantile communities are thus deprived of the means of transporting their merchandise, it is not unreasonable to say that the whole world would feel the pressure of difficulty.

If we then look at the effect of the breaking out of war upon currency, we see that mining works would be stopped, mints would be closed, and the rich, having no means of employment for their money, would finally hasten to deposit it in trustworthy Banks, and remain idle, with their hands in their pockets. Actually, the total amount of deposits in the Bank of England on the 16th of last January was £29,838,282 whilst on the 17th October last, it was £25,777,135. Comparison of these figures will show an increase in the deposits of £4,000,000, which has probably arisen from the depression in the London markets from the disturbed state of Europe. It is impossible to estimate to how many millions of pounds would amount the expenditure of England, Austria and Russia, in case of war, and by whom would it be paid? Englishmen would pay for the expenditure of their own Government, and even Austria's expenses would probably be paid by England, as we have the proof of this having been done by her, during her war with France many years ago. And that Russia would also seek for the loan of money from Englishmen is also very well known. And as war expenditure is incurred only for gunpowder, arms, coal, provisions for soldiers &c., it cannot be said to assist circulation of money among the people. Therefore we say that on the question of currency merely, the Anglo-Russian war would not a little obstruct the circulation of money throughout the world.

Although there are besides these, so many ways in which the war will affect trade, that we have not enough space to treat of them here, the above-named two suffice to prove that mercantile communities are justified in considering a war between these two nations as a great war affecting all the world. But the state of trade all over the world will doubtless undergo a change so great that it is beyond the depth of our shallow ability to estimate it; and we therefore leave that question for the present, confining our selves to the immediate effects of war upon trade in our own

country, and leave them for the consideration of our readers, watching, ourselves, the actual course of future events.

Silk which is one of the most important of our exports, would not only at once fall in value; but, finally, its export would be entirely stopped: and tea, being hitherto exported mainly to meet the American demand, though it may not feel any considerable effects at once, as silk would; still it cannot escape them to a certain extent, and would suffer in unison with the general depression of trade. And besides, as all the tea hitherto exported from China to England and Russia would be together concentrated in one market, that of America; then there is no doubt that our exports would fall off and decrease in value. And the only exports from our country to Europe for which there is likely to be any increased demand would be rice and corn: but if all transport by sea is stopped, as above stated, we shall have no means to export them, no matter what rise may take place in current prices. So after all, there will be no active traffic in any of our exports.

Turning now to imports, we see that the amount of these must be decreased through the decrease of manufacture in England—and specially by the stoppage of transportation—and as muslins, yarns &c. are mostly of English make, the stocks will at once become insufficient to meet our demands, and prices in Yokohama and other places will rise excessively, and the value of the Mexican dollar will gradually go up in consequence. If we consider all these things, we shall see that our trade will certainly be not a little affected. As however, we merchants sometimes obtain unusual profits by seizing the opportunities which occur according to circumstances, results will depend, to some extent, upon the wisdom of the parties concerned. So, therefore, if we only consider the effect of this war upon our trade as affecting individuals only, there is no cause for alarm; still, if we look at it as affecting the whole public generally, it is very fearful and we earnestly wish for ourselves and our readers together that this great calamity may be avoided, or that—if this be impossible, that we may be prepared for it when it comes.

JAPANESE DRESS FOR THE JAPANESE.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

WE lately published an article upon "abandoning the use of leathern boots by soldiers and replacing them with straw shoes," a subject which our readers will we believe, have understood—and now following up the same subject, we wish to extend the argument to others than soldiers.

The Notification dated the 18th September last year was to the effect that all the Government officials may, in the case of wearing the ordinary ceremony dress (swallow-tail coats), wear instead of these, frock-coats of the colour of black or dark blue, and also that officers from the rank of Hannin downwards, may, at the choice of the chief of the department, substitute for them the *Haori* (Japanese coat) and *Hakama* (Japanese loose trowsers).—

There were some at the time who argued that, "whether our Government's adopting Western dress, is on account of convenience or of appearance, it would not be without reason, indeed the employment of such a dress as the 'swallow-tail' on ceremonial occasions would have the effect of bringing the people nearer to Western civilization, at least in appearance. But should the *Haori* and *Hakama* now be permitted to be worn instead of the swallow-tailed coat, this would indeed be a retrograde step of the people from a state of civilization. That this matter of deciding the kind of ceremony dress is now very important, as it will affect the future customs of Japan; and if old fashioned people, mistaking this Notification, are so misguided as to object to abandon the old and take up the new government fashion, this cannot fail to prevent the people getting civilized in their surface appearance."

This argument may be looked upon as stupid words expressed by those who are too fond of Western customs and who grumble without knowing the circumstances of the time and should not be taken notice of. But that the people, from loving ease too much, should lose their manners and fall into the savage state, is what we are afraid of. Etiquette and ceremony are quite indispensable things

for mankind, but there is no reason that these cannot be performed unless in Western dress. If there are Japanese dresses suitable for etiquette and ceremony and not ugly in appearance, it is as convenient for us to employ these. The reason of our Government's permitting the officers of the *Hannin* rank and downwards to employ the *Haori* and *Hakama*, cannot be any other but this.

This action of the Government is, we have no doubt, for the purpose of obviating trouble and promoting convenience. But although the object of the Government may simply be to promote convenience, it seems to us also to have the good effect of promoting economy and making the people rich. We therefore earnestly request that an addition may be made to this Notification, to the effect that the system be extended on a larger scale and thus increase the benefit of the people.

Look at the Japanese fashions in other things: the houses and furniture agree with the usual dress of the people. If we had the Western style of house to suit the Western ceremonial dress, we might wear it accordingly; but if it is to be worn in Japanese houses, the inconvenience is very great; and this is another reason for allowing the officers in and below the rank of *Hannin* to employ either dress for the present.

We however observe from the order of the Naimusho (home affairs department) in reply to an enquiry from the Wakayama Ken, that this convenient system only refers to officers actually and nominally in and below the rank of *Hannin* and any others who are in the temporary employment and that it does not refer to the people at large. Thus the public are obliged to wear the swallow-tail dresses and cannot employ the *Haori* and *Hakama* in their stead.

The ceremonial dresses of the Government officers are chiefly worn in the Government offices, whilst those of citizens are chiefly worn in their private houses, and whilst the Government offices and their furniture being mostly of the Western style, the dresses of the same style may be employed, yet the convenience of wearing the *Haori* and *Hakama* instead has been granted to these. Why cannot citizens who have the least connection with Western matters, be allowed to adopt the same? In performing ceremonials and the duties of etiquette in Japanese houses, the swallow-tail dress is very inconvenient and the *Asagami-shimo* (Japanese ceremonial dress in the old time) is not genteel and the only dress that is suitable therefore is the *Haori* and *Hakama*. So if the substitution of these for the swallow-tail coats were allowed publicly, it would not only be a convenience to the people, but would diminish the expenses of dressing in Western materials and consequently buying other Western goods which are necessary to suit the dress.

Indeed if the people throughout the country were allowed to employ ceremonial dresses of the kind above referred to, it would not only promote their comfort but would enable them to lessen a portion of the foreign imports.

Convenience and general benefit being as above stated, thus on our side, we earnestly request that this system be extended more widely.

Further, the Notification says that the rule may be put in force at the will of the chiefs of the departments, &c., &c., &c. From this it would appear that the employment or non-employment of swallow-tail coats entirely depends upon the will of the chiefs and if they are in favour of the Western fashion, the officers in the department could not adopt this convenient system.

Should this really be the case, it cannot operate in the direction of promoting general convenience. If the employment of both dresses at option has already been granted to certain parties, it is better, indeed necessary to extend the system on a larger scale. We are therefore of opinion, that if, instead of putting any limit to the adoption of the system, all officers, either * *Sonin* or *Hannin* and also citizens were permitted to substitute native ceremony dress for swallow-tail coats and to wear the *Montsuki haori* (Japanese coat with crest on the back) and *Machitaka*

* The Government officers in Japan are grouped into seventeen grades. From the 1st to the 3rd class are called *Chokunin*; from the 4th to the 7th, *Sonin*; and from the 8th to the 17th, *Hannin*.

hakama (Japanese loose trousers) it would certainly without affecting etiquette and ceremony, greatly promote convenience and general benefit.

EXTRATS.

FURTHER EXPERIENCE AS AN EDITOR OF MR. GILEAD P. BECK.

(From the 'Golden Butterfly'.)

"I don't know whether you visited Illinois when you were in America, Mr. Dunquerque; but if you did, perhaps you went to Clearville. It is in that part of the State which goes by the name of Egypt, and is so named on account of the benighted condition of the natives. It wasn't a lively place to go to, but still—

"The *Clearville Roarer* was the property of a Mrs. Scrimmager, widow of the lately defunct editor. She was a fresh buxom widow of thirty-five, with a flow of language that would drown a town-council or a vestry. I inferred from this that the late Mr. Scrimmager was not probably very sorry when the time came for him to pass in his checks.

"She occupied the upper flats of a large square building, in the lower part of which were the offices of the paper. I inspected the premises, and having found that the books and plant were pretty well what the advertisement pretended, I closed the bargain at once, and entered into possession.

"The first evening I took tea with Mrs. Scrimmager.

"It must be more than a mite lonely for you," she said, as we sat over her dough-nuts and flipflaps, 'up at the tavern. But you'll soon get to know all the leading people. They're a two-cent lot, the best of them. Scrimmy (we always called him Scrimmy for short) never cottoned to them. He used to say they were too low and common, mean enough to shoot a man without giving him a chance—a thing which Scrimmy, who was honourable from his boots up, would have scorned to do.'

"I asked if it was long since her husband had taken his departure.

"He started," she said, 'for kingdom come two months ago, if that's what you mean.'

"Long ill?"

"Ill?" she replied, as if surprised at the question. 'Scrimmy never was ill in his life. He was quite the wrong sort of stuff for that. Scrimmy was killed.'

"Was he?" I asked. 'Railway accident, I suppose?'

"Mrs. Scrimmager looked at me resentfully, as if she thought I really ought to have known better. Then she curved her upper lip in disdain.

"Railway accident! Not much. Scrimmy was shot.'

"Terrible!" I ejaculated, with a nervous sensation, because I guessed what was coming:

"Well, it was rough on him," she said. 'Scrimmy and Huggins of the *Scalper*—do you know Huggins? Well, you'll meet him soon enough for your health. They hadn't been friends for a long while, and each man was waiting to draw a bead on the other. How they did go for one another! As an ink-slinger, Huggins wasn't a patch on my husband; but Huggins was a trifle handier with his irons. In fact, Huggins has shot enough men to make a small graveyard of his own; and his special weakness is editors of your paper.'

"I began to think that Clearville was not altogether the place for peace and rest. But it was too late now.

"The lady went on:

"Finally, Scrimmy wrote something that riled Huggins awful. So he sent him a civil note, saying that he'd bore a hole in him first chance. I've got the note in my desk there. That was gentlemanlike, so far; but he spoiled it all by the mean sneaking way he carried it through. Scrimmy, who was wonderful careless and never would take my advice, was writing in his office when Huggins crept in quiet, and dropped a bullet through his neck before he had time to turn. Scrimmy knew it was all up; but he was game to the last, and finished his article, giving the *Scalper* thunder. When he'd done it he came up-stairs and died.'

"And Mr. Huggins?"

"They tried him; but, Lord, the jury were all his friends, and they brought it in justifiable homicide. After the funeral, Huggins behaved handsome; he put the *Scalper* into deep mourning, and wrote a beautiful send-off notice, saying what a loss the community had suffered in Scrimmy's untimely end. I've got the article in my desk, and I'll show it to you; but somehow I never could bring myself to be friends with Huggins after it.'

"Mr. Scrimmager was perhaps not the only editor who has fallen a victim in Clearville.'

"The only one? Not by a long chalk," she replied. "The *Roarer* has had six editors in five years; they've all been shot except one, and he died of consumption. His was a very sad case. A deputation of leading citizens called to interview him one evening; he took refuge on the roof of the office, and they kept him there all night in a storm. He died in two months after it. But he was a poor nervous critter, quite unfit for his position."

"And this," I thought, "this is the place I have chosen for a quiet life."

"I debated that night with myself whether it would be better to blow the roof off my head at once, instead of waiting for Huggins or some other citizen to do it for me. But I resolved on waiting a little."

"Next day I examined the files of the *Roarer*, and found that it had been edited with great vigour and force; there was gunpowder in every article, fire and brimstone in every paragraph. No wonder, I thought, that the men who wrote those things were chopped up into sausage-meat. I read more, and it seemed as if they might as well have set themselves up as targets at once. I determined on changing the tone of the paper; I would no longer call people midnight assassins and highway robbers, nor would I hint that political opponents were all related to suspended criminals. I would make the *Roarer* something pure, noble, and good; I would take Washington Irving for my model; it should be my mission to elevate the people."

"Wal, sir, I began. I wrote for my first number articles as elevating as Kentucky whisky. Every sentence was richly turned; every paragraph was as gentle as if from the pen of Goldsmith. There was a mutiny among the compositors; they were unaccustomed to such language, and it made them feel small. One man, after swearing till the atmosphere was blue, laid down his stick in despair and went and got drunk. And the two apprentices fought over the meaning of a sentence in the back-yard. One of those boys is now a cripple for life."

"It would have been better for me, a thousand times better, if I had stuck to the old lines of writing. The people were accustomed to that. They looked for it, and they didn't want any elevating. If you think of it, Mr. Dunquerque, people never do. The Clearville roughs liked to be abused, too, because it gave them prominence and importance. But my pure style didn't suit them, and, as it turned out, didn't suit me either."

"The City Marshal was the earliest visitor after the issue of my first number. He came to say that, as the chief executive officer of the town, he would not be responsible for the public peace if I persevered in that inflammatory style. I told him I wouldn't change it for him or anybody else. Then he said it would cause a riot, and he washed his hands of it, and he'd done his duty."

"Next came the Mayor with two town-councillors."

"What, in thunder, do you think you mean, young man," his honour began, pointing to my last editorial, "by bringing everlasting disgrace on our town with such mush as that?"

"He called it mush."

"I asked him what was wrong in it."

"Wrong? It is all wrong. Of all the mean and miserable twaddle—"

"He called it miserable twaddle."

"Hold on, Mr. Mayor," I said; "we must discuss this article in a different way. Which member of your august body does the heavy business?"

"We all take a hand when it's serious," he replied; "but in ordinary cases it's generally understood that I do the municipal fighting myself."

"We'll consider this an ordinary case, Mr. Mayor," I said; and I went for that chief magistrate. He presently passed through the window—the fight had no details of interest—and then the town-councillors shook hands with me, congratulated me on my editorial, and walked out quiet through the door."

"Nearly a dozen Egyptians dropped in during the afternoon to remonstrate. I disposed of them in as gentlemanlike a manner as possible. Towards evening I was growing a little tired, and thinking of shutting up for the day, when my foreman, whom the day's proceedings had made young again—such is the effect of joy—informed me that Mr. Huggins of the *Scalper* was coming down the street. A moment later Mr. Huggins entered. He was a medium-sized man, with sharp, piercing eyes and a well-bronzed face, active as a terrier and tough as a hickory-knot. I was sitting in the wreck of the office-desk, but I rose as he came in."

"Don't stir," he said pleasantly. "My name is Huggins; but I am not going to kill you to-day."

"I said I was much obliged to him."

"I see you've been receiving visitors," he went on, looking at the fragments of the chairs. "Ours, Mr. Beck, is an active and a responsible profession."

"I said I thought it was."

"These people have been pressing their arguments home with unseemly haste," he said. "It is unkind to treat a stranger thus. Now as for me, I wouldn't draw on you for your first article, not to be made Governor of Illinois. It would be most unprofessional. Give a man a fair show, I say."

"Very good, Mr. Huggins."

"At the same time, Mr. Beck, I do think you've laid yourself open. You are reckless, not to say insulting. Take my case. You never saw me before, and you've had the weakness to speak of me as the gentlemanly editor of the *Scalper*."

"I'm sure, Mr. Huggins, if the term is offensive—"

"Offensive? Of course it is offensive. But as this is our first interview, I must not let my dander rise."

"Let it rise by all means, and stay as high as it likes. We may find a way of bringing it down again."

"No, no," he answered, smiling; "it would be unprofessional. Still, I must say that your sneaking, snivelling city way of speaking will not go down, and I have looked in to tell you that it must not be repeated."

"It shall not be repeated, Mr. Huggins. I shall never again make the mistake of calling you a gentleman."

"He started up like a flash, and moved his hand to his breast-pocket:—"

"What do you mean by that?"

"I was just in time, as I sprang upon and seized him by both arms before he could draw his pistol."

"I mean this," I said: "you've waked up the wrong passenger this time, Mr. Huggins. You needn't wriggle. I've been chucking people through that window all day, and you shall end the lot. But first I want that shooting-iron; it might go off by accident and hurt some one badly."

"It was a long and mighty heavy contract, for he was as supple as an eel and as wicked as a cat. But I got the best hold at last, relieved him of his pistol, and tossed him through the window."

"Jim," I said to the foreman, as I stretched myself in a corner, panting and bleeding, "you can shut up. We shan't do any more business to-day."

"I issued two more numbers of the *Roarer* on the same refined and gentlemanly principle, and I fought half the county. But all to no purpose. Neither fighting nor writing could reform those Egyptians."

"Huggins shot me through the arm one evening as I was going home from the office. I shall carry his mark to the grave. Three nights later I was waited on by about thirty leading citizens, headed by the Mayor. They said they thought Clearville wasn't agreeing with me, and they were come to remove me. I was removed on a plank, escorted by a torchlight process of the local fire-brigade. On the platform of the railway-station the Mayor delivered a short address. He said, with tears, that the interests of party were above those of individuals, and that a change of residence was necessary for me. Then he put into my hands a purse with two hundred dollars, and we parted with every expression of mutual esteem."

"That is how I came out of the land of Egypt, Mr. Dunquerque; and that is the whole history of my connection with the press."

DEATH OF DR. A. DUFF.

[The *Madras Athenaeum* writes thus of this eminent Missionary, whose death we mentioned a fortnight ago:—]

"Few, very few are those who can remember the day when Dr. Duff landed in Calcutta, after having been nearly shipwrecked on his way out. Dr. Duff's career, both in this country, and, after his going home, in Scotland, has been a most remarkable one. We have no hesitation in saying that he has been the greatest missionary educationalist (Dr. Wilson of Bombay scarcely excepted) which India has ever known. His Free Church of Scotland brethren in Madras will deeply feel his loss; and we shall be surprised if from many of their pulpits in this presidency, do not echo next Sunday grateful acknowledgments of his eminent services. Even when he had been obliged to retire from active Missionary work in India, he remembered his old sphere of labour, and a large number of the foremost Free Church educationalists in India to-day have been continually supported in their work here by his advice and encouragement. We may mention in passing, a somewhat strange fact. Bishop CALDWELL, of the South of this Presidency, was we believe, a fellow-student with Dr. Duff, in Scotland, when Dr. CALDWELL was himself a member of the Scotch Free Church, and had not sought Holy Orders in the Church of England. Excepting Bishop CALDWELL, few Missionaries at present in India remember much of the earliest vigour and fervid intensity of Dr. Duff's work. His heart and his soul, from his first day in India, was in the work of attempting to grasp the young Hindu and Mussalman mind, and, in its tender growth, to purify, enlighten, and raise it for Christ. Dr. Duff in his early years was a wonderfully fluent and florid speaker. He carried much before

him by sheer force of his tongue. But as he grew old, his style, always attractive, became less florid and more chastely ornate. We hope that his biography will be published. His name is too identified with the Missionary causes in India to be lost sight of. He was a D. D. and L. L. D. as only Bishop CALDWELL, his old College friend is now in India.

Dr. DUFF was born near Pitlochry, Perthshire, in 1806, studied at the University of St. Andrews, where he graduated in honours; and at College was remarkable for the great interest which he displayed in the cause of missions to heathen lands. Early in 1829 the offer was made to him to undertake the important office of the first missionary to India from the Established Church of Scotland, and having accepted it, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and sailed from Portsmouth for India about the middle of October, in the *Lady Holland*, East Indiaman, which was wrecked on Dassen Island, near the Cape of Good Hope, Feb. 13, 1830; but the Rev. A. Duff eventually reached his destination in safety. The institution which he founded there in 1830 has long been the largest in India, and at this establishment, in addition to elementary instruction, the higher branches of literature, science, philosophy, and Christian theology are taught. In 1843 he joined that section of the clergy which seceded from the Church of Scotland and by his untiring energy and zeal, and personal influence, was enabled to carry on successfully the missionary work at Calcutta, in connection with the Free Church. On revisiting his native land for the first time in 1836, his efforts to diffuse a missionary spirit throughout the churches were unremitting. Having returned to Scotland a second time in 1850, he was chosen Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church in 1851, was examined before a Committee of the House of Lords in Indian affairs in 1853, and contributed valuable materials for the famous Education Despatch of 1854. He has written, among other works, "New Era for the English Language and Literature in India," published at Edinburgh in 1837; "India and India Missions," in 1839, containing the substance of his addresses on different occasions, both from the platform and the pulpit, in England and Scotland, on the subject of India Missions; "Missions the chief end of the Christian Church," the "Qualifications, Duties, and Trials of an Indian Missionary," in 1839; "Letters on the Indian Rebellion" 1858; various articles in the *Calcutta Review*, of which he was at its commencement, and for several years, editor; and many pamphlets on miscellaneous subjects. Dr. Duff, in consequence of ill health, was constrained to quit India in Dec., 1863, after more than thirty years of missionary labour. After his return he was appointed Convenor or Permanent President of the Free Church. As the result of his suggestion and earnest pleading, a new professorship of evangelistic theology was established by the General Assembly in its theological colleges, while, through his personal exertions, the sum of £10,000 was raised and invested for its endowment. Having been unanimously called by the church at large to accept the first appointment to the new collegiate chair, he responded to the call on the express condition that the salary attached to the office should be applied to another object of a missionary character, and that "any services which he could render should be purely and absolutely gratuitous."

THE JAPAN TIMES,
A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE
AND ART.

Price Twenty-four Dollars Per Annum.

CONTENTS OF No. 14. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. APRIL 6TH, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

The Drain of Bullion. H. M. S. Eurydice. The Forestry Laws.
Mr. Russell Robertson.

EDITORIAL NOTES.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.—NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A.
Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 14. The Lapwing Censer.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

What would be the effect on our trade if War were to break out between
England and Russia. Japanese dress for the Japanese.

EXTRACTS.

Death of Dr. Duff, the Indian Missionary. Further Experiences as an
Editor of Mr. Gilbert P. Beck.

THE HOUSEKEEPER,

(being a list of prices current for provisions, in foreign shops and native markets)

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 13. MARCH 30, 1878.

Treaty Revision—The Japanese *gen* Rivers Rebuilt. Afforestation—The
Government's Forestry Regulations.

Papers of the German Asiatic Society. On Earthquakes. By Dr. Edmund
Naumann.

Editorial notes. Notes of the Week. Notes and Queries.

The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 13.

The Japanese Press. Governmental subsidies to Trade. Governmental
subsidies; the Mitsu Bishi Company. Employment of Native Capital in Japan.
Extracts. The Hongkong Races. Dulcissima—Dilectissima.

Mail Steamers Register Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c.
Advertisements.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c.

Bread	...	...	...	.08 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .18	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.19 to .30	"
Veal	"	"	...	.25	"
Pork	"	"	...	.12 to .16	"
Sausages	"	"	...	.30	"
Beef—Japae. Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .16	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.16 to .25	"
Veal	"	"	...	.20	"
Pork	"	"	...	.10	"
Sausages,,	"	"	...	.20	"
Oysters	...	...	...	.05 to .10	per 100
Eggs	...	...	...	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	...	...	...	.80 to .40	each.
Chickens	...	...	...	.15 to .25	"
Geese	...	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Wild geese	...	...	...		"
Pigeons	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Turkeys	...	...	...	2.00 to 3.50	"
Hen Turkeys	...	...	...		"
Deer	...	...	...	.15	per lb.
Wild—boar	...	...	...	.12	"
Hares	...	...	...	.37 to .50	each.
Pheasants	...	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Quail	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Snipe	...	...	...	.06 to .08	"
Woodcock	...	...	...	.35 to .40	"
Wild ducks	...	...	...	.37 to .40	"
Bombay Onions	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	...	...	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	...	...	.12½	"
English Coal	...	...	...	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	...	...	...	8.50 to 10.00	"
Anthracite	...	...	...	15.00 to 17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	...	...	10.50 to 11.50	"

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes, sweet potatoes cabbage, small cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes, lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery turnips, carrots, parsnips, spring onions & turnip-tops.

POSTAL NOTICES.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial Japanese Post Office, March 15th, 1878:—

Armstrong, H. B.	Mendelson Bros.
Andrews, E.	Prestileff, B., Tokio
Allin, H. N., Tokio, 2	Pini, E.
Burnes, John J.	Pigeon, F., Tokio
Bianchi, L., Tokio.	Robertson, S.
Campbell, A. A.	Richards, Wm. H., 2
Cartman, E., Tokio	Schneider, Dr. A. Tokio
Carme, P.	Shinagawa, R.
Cheesman, F.	Saito, T.
Clark, W. S.	Schwaub, M.
Camhefert, Emile.	Smith, Mrs.
Churchill, Rev. H. A.	Schmidt, Edward
Day, T.	Tailer, B.
Degron, M. Refused	Thaell, James
Edwards, Mrs.	Toby, Miss, Tokio
Flood, Wm.	Taylor, Mrs.
Hanzen, E., Tokio	Tarbell, Rev.
Hall, Sam H.	Trungia, Moses & Co.
Hamill, G. D.	Thorel, H.
Hoffman,	Van Peth, M. F.
Hanzen, E., Tokio	Walker, G. W., Tokio
Harding W. J., Tokio	Wychoff
Kluge, Theodore, Tokio	Wylie, A. H.
Kelaimbi & Son.	Wilson, North & Co.
Myacila	Watt W.
Morie, Mrs. A., Tokio	Yona, Kitchie

SHIPS.

S. S. "Patro" | Ship "Sumner R. Mead."
I. T. FARR,
Acting Superintendent.
Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, 1878.

RETURNS OF TRADE OF THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA:—FOR THE MONTH ENDING MARCH 31st 1878.

(Compiled and Published by the *Japan Gazette*, from the Daily Official Returns.)

IMPORTS.		QUANTITIES.	VALUES.	TOTALS.	EXPORTS.		QUANTITIES.	VALUES.	TOTALS.
COTTON MANUFACTURES.					Awabi Fish pcls. 301.59 9,043				
Chintz	pcs. 2,000	\$ 3,563			" Shells... ..	" 160.03 531			
Drills	" 14	300			Bronze	" 1,954.62 25,410			
Flannel	" 296	1,468			China Root	" 968.40 2,279			
Satins	" 2,387	2,387			Coal... ..	tons 250.00 2,500			
Shirtings, Grey	" 37,209	74,003			Cocoons, Pierced	pcls. 410.00 27,100			
" White	" 2,413	4,657			Copper	" 1,281.03 18,339			
" Dyed	" 1,278	2,069			Curios	" — 51,353			
" Twilled... ..	" 2,297	6,595			Cuttle Fish	" 603.75 6,770			
Singlets and Drawers	" 1,705	1,705			Fans	pces. 401,370 8,804			
T. Cloth	" 3,791	5,643			Fish, Dried	" 4,833.26 12,781			
Thread	pcls. 27.50	2,658			Ginseng	" 192.92 13,186			
Turkey Red	pcs. 8,141	14,029			Isinglass	" 173.24 5,331			
Velvets	" 6,037	39,443			Mushrooms	" 194.00 6,571			
Yarn	pcls 36,193.00	966,780			Porcelain & Earthenware	" — 1,708			
Other Cotton Fabrics		9,690	\$ 1,134,990		Rice... ..	pcls 68,865.00 155,235			
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.					Seaweed Cut... ..	" 994.28 2,349			
Blankets... ..	" 191.22				" Uncut	" 862.40 2,333			
Cloth	pcs. 769	10,515			Silk, Raw	" 692.42 351,452			
Flannel	" 30,517	30,517			" Noshi	" 273.25 29,800			
Lastings... ..	" 693	693			" Floss	" 22.85 8,891			
Mousselines	" 37,006	110			" Waste	" 431.63 15,554			
Other Wool Fabrics		186,329	\$ 228,539		Silk Piece Goods	" — 509			
WOOL & COTTON M ^{ANUFACTURES} .					Tea	pcls 1,003.60 22,545			
Alpaca	" 40	40			" Branches	" 472.27 669			
Italian Cloth... ..	" 3,612	17,838			" Dust	" 44.32 150			
Lustres and Orleans	" 796	2,660			Tobacco	" 332.61 3,580			
Other Mixed Fabrics		5,402	\$ 25,940		Wheat	" 25,071.00 46,071			
METALS.					Miscellaneous	" — 6,478			
Brass		1,822			TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS, MARCH 1878. \$ 832,222				
Copper		1,672			SUMMARY:—IMPORTS.				
Iron... ..		29,178			Cotton Manufactures	value	\$1,134,990		
Lead		47,491			Woollen Manufactures	"	228,539		
" Tea		775			Mixed Cotton and Woollen	"	25,940		
Nickel		1,757			Metals	"	100,007		
Quicksilver		4,886			Miscellaneous	"	684,835	\$ 2,174,311	
Spelter and Zinc		2,490			Ditto :—EXPORTS, value... .. 832,222				
Steel		2,471			Excess of IMPORTS over EXPORTS. \$ 1,341,086				
Tin... ..		3,190			SPECIE AND BULLION.—IMPORTS and EXPORTS.				
Yellow Metal		4,275	\$ 100,007						
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS.									
Arms and Ammunition		56,055					VALUE.		
Acids, Chemicals, and Drugs		26,552			IMPORTED.	Yen.	Dollars.	Total.	
Beer and Porter		5,024							
Boots and Shoes		908			Silver yen	1,000			
Books		614							
Buttons		1,407			EXPORTED.		101,700		
Camphor		2,490							
Canvas		5,351			Dollars				
Cattle		584			Gold yen... ..	371,000			
Cement		4,260			Silver yen	271,890			
Clocks		2,219			Nibookin... ..	107,835			
Clothing... ..		8,699			Silver Boos... ..	15,513			
Coal and Coke		5,500			Copper, Coined	1,000			
Cotton Raw	pcls. 983.00	9,993							
Dyes		12,235			Total. Mexican dollars... ..				101,700
Flour		2,963			Japanese Currency				767,238
Glass, Window		6,037			DIVISION OF THE TRADE.				
" Ware		5,801							
Gunny Bags	pcs. 3,000	393			IMPORTS.	VALUE.	TOTAL.		
Instruments, Scientific		12,098							
" Musical		897			From Europe	\$1,732,321			
Leather... ..	pcls. 492.63	14,718			" United States	63,115			
Linen		6,722			" China, the Straits, the Philip-				
Machinery		1,862			pines, Netherlands' India,				
Oil, Kerosene... ..	gals. 90,000	15,305			Bombay, Calcutta and				
" Other		2,294			Australia	378,875	\$ 2,174,311		
Peas and Beans		410			EXPORTS.	VALUE.	TOTAL.		
Perfumery		1,024							
Plated Ware		1,392			To Europe	\$ 422,543			
Provisions and Stores		7,211			" United States	87,496			
Silk and Satin		9,414			" India	1,283			
Silk and Cotton		98			" Australia	710			
Soap		3,805			" China &c.	320,190	\$ 632,222		
Stationery and Paper		25,064							
Sugar, Foreign		3,180							
" Chinese	pcls. 45,782.00	213,337							
Umbrellas, Handles, & Frames		35,085							
Watches... ..		33,681							
Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs		12,642							
Miscellaneous, Foreign		89,445							
" Local		37,406	\$ 684,835						
TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS, MARCH 1878. \$ 2,174,411									

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, viâ COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the O. & O. S. S. *Gaelic* sailing April 20th.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON viâ BRINDISI

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	" 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	" 16	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	" 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	" 79 Jan. 3	" 79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	" 79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 31	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	" 79 Jan. 8	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON viâ MARSEILLES

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	" 77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 22
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 23	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 23
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	" 79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	" 79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	" 79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	" 79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 18	" 25	Feb. 3

.. The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

.. No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

.. Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

.. Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	hSanghai	April 3	Apr. 11		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Apr. 10	Apr. 18	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 1	" 16		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 10	June 3	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	Feb. 22	" 14		M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 9	Apr. 13	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Mar. 4	Mar. 30		P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 5		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 19	Apr. 11		O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 20		

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Mar. 30	Mount Washington	Perkins	Am. ship	1,217	Batavia	Jan. 11	Kerosine	China & Japan Trad'g Co.
" 30	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	Mar. 28	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 30	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,200	Kagoashima	" 24	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 30	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,300	Hiogo	" 28	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 30	Henry A. Litchfield	Drummond	Am. barq.	638	Newcastle N.S.W.	Jan. 13	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
Apr. 2	Omba	Hall	Brit. str.	836	Shanghai	Mar. 19	Coals	Cornes & Co.
" 2	Lord of the Isles	Watt	Brit. barq.	350	Takao	" 16	Sugar	Chinese
" 2	Dido	Werner	Am. Cutter	29	Shanghai	" 17	General	Captain.
" 3	Kokonoye	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Shanghai and ports	" 26	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	Norman	Campbell	Am. barq.	317	Bonin Islands	" 26	Mails and general	Captain.
" 4	City of Tokio	Maury	Am. str.	5,079	Hongkong	" 28	Mails and general	China & Japan Trad'g Co.
" 5	Sumner B. Mead	Dixon	Am. barq.	1,117	New York	Oct. 16	Kerosine	P. & O. Co.
" 5	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	Mar. 28	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 6	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	" 4	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Nura, Messrs. Fearon, P. McClaahey, Peterson, Lloyd Mayer, Aitchison, Mudie, W. E. Andrews, C. J. Gibson, Takeda, and Morishita; and 8 Russian sailors in the cabin; and 2 Europeans, 92 Japanese, and 3 Chinese in the steerage. For America:—Capt. A. T. Friend.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* from Hongkong:—Mrs. Chadwick.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—Capt. Mead, R.N., and two European servants, Staff Surgeon Lawrenson, R.N., and Madame Chabot.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Laura," Nov. 21; S.S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9.
FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Haze," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24.

FROM HAMBURG:—"August," Oct. 16.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—P. M. S. S. "China" March 4; O. & O. S. "Oceanic" March 19; P. M. S. S. "City of Peking," April 1.

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM HONGKONG:—"Oxfordshire," April 1.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—At LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," S. S. "Madras," "Bon Accord," S. S. "Burmese."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. April 16th; Hongkong M. M. str. April 14th; America P. M. str. March 30th O. & O. str. April 11th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 11th.

**CARGOES:—Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$97,331.00.
Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—2,513 packages.**

**REPORTS:—The American ship *Mount Washington* reports:—Left Batavia 11th January. Had fine weather throughout the voyage. Arrived off Rock Island on the afternoon of the 28th instant, and took pilot on board. At 5 p.m. yesterday saw an American barque off Cape Sagami, flying the Jack for a pilot. We arrived at noon to-day (the 30th).
The American barque *Henry A. Litchfield* reports:—Sailed from Newcastle N.S.W., on 18th January. Had variable weather throughout the whole passage.**

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DISPATCHED BY.
Mar. 30	Fire Queen	Hamilton	Brit. barq.	769	Niigata		General	E. B. Watson.
" 30	Otego	Isaacs	Am. schr.	52	Kurile Islands		General	Captain.
" 31	Jupiter	Haskerl	Russ. schr.	50	Kurile Islands		General	Captain.
" 31	Lotte	Smith	Russ. schr.	25	Kurile Islands		General	Captain.
Apr. 2	Sunda	Reeves	Brit. str.	1,704	Hongkong	Apr. 9	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 2	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Kobe	" 9	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	Prinz Friedrich Carl	Mohr	Ger. str.	1,102	Kobe	" 5	General	H. Ahrens & Co.
" 3	Takachihō Maru	Sikemeit	Jap. str.	1,407	Shanghai and ports	" 11	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	Saminoe Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	1,240	Hakodate	" 11	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	Glenartney	Gulland	Brit. str.	1,300	Kobe	" 5	General	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 4	Glamis Castle	Greig	Brit. str.	1,538	Kobe	" 6	General	Adamson, Ball & Co.
" 4	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,200	Kobe	" 6	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 4	City of Tokio	Maury	Am. str.	5,079	San Francisco	" 7	Mails and general	P. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Rev. W. S. Cooper, Mrs. Cooper and child, Mr. Wong Joo Hoon Wife and Child; and 3 Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Takachihō-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Boudou, son, and daughter, Messrs. Kawakita, J. Joy, Taki, Takita, Nakamura, Matsumami, Kahizaki, Terada, Shinjo, J. A. L. Coker, Sewaki, O. Omai, and Tsukimoto.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* for San Francisco:—Messrs. M. F. Keefe, W. Lee, Baron von Ohlm, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Miller, and Mr. C. C. Malsch; and 6 Europeans and 2 Chinese in the steerage; for New York: Mr. and Mrs. G. Walker, Rev. J. Ing. wife and child, Rev. Bishop Wiley, wife and child, Messrs. Faruoki, Jas. Belknap, Capt. A. F. Friend, D. Rought, and M. McMartin and servant; for Paris: Messrs. F. Plate, H. Pohl, and H. Dauvergne; for Liverpool: Mr. and Mrs. Aston, and Capt. Buller, C.B., R.N.

LOADING:—Volga, for Hongkong and Europe, April 9th.—M. M. Co.; Malacca, April 10th.—P. & O. Co.

Hiroshima Maru, for Shanghai and ports, April 10th.—M. B. M. Co.

Papalos, for Niigata, Quick despatch.—H. Koch.

Johann Wickhorst, for London, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffier & Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. April 10th; for Hongkong M. M. str. April 9th; for America O. & O. str. April 20th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 10th; for Hakodate M. B. M. str.

REGOES:—Per Brit. str. *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Silk for London, 18 bales.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Akitashima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up. Repairing.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	Mar. 30	M. B. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steamer	1,870	Sha'hai & p'rts	Feb. 7	M. B. M. Co.	
Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Japanese steamer	1,133	Sha'hai & p'rts	April 3	M. B. M. Co.	
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong	April 5	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Mar. 28	Lighthouse Department	
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	April 6	M. B. M. Co.	Government service Lighthouse Department
Tamura Maru	Dithlefsen	Japanese steamer	558	Kobe			
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9		
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Mar. 28	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	Mar. 15	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,300	Hiogo	Mar. 30	M. B. M. Co.	
SAILING SHIP.							
Comet	Norris	American ship	1,157	Hongkong	Mar. 30	Ed. Fischer & Co.	London.
Dido	Werner	American cutter	29	Shanghai	April 3	Captain	
Henry A. Litchfield	Drummond	American barque	638	N'wca'le n.s.w.	April 2	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Iphigenia	Green	German barque	464	Hamburg	Mar. 8	L. Kniffier & Co.	London.
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	H'm'b'g v'k'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Jotun	Hauff	Norw'gn ship	885	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 19	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Lord of the Isles	Watt	British barque	350	Takao	April 2	Chinese	For fr'ght. or ch'ter.
Mount Washington	Perkins	American ship	1,217	Batavio	Mar. 30	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Norman	Campbell	American barque	317	Bonin Islands	April 3	Captain	
Omba	Hall	British ship	836	Shanghai	April 2	Cornes & Co.	Niigata.
Orange Grove	Longmuir	British barque	385	Takao	Mar. 23	Chinese	
Paralos	Pasco	French barque	340	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 11	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Succes	Ollivaud	French barque	363	N'wca'le n.s.w.	Mar. 19	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Niigata.
Sumner E. Mead	Dixon	American ship	1,117	New York	April 5	C. & J. Trading Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Modeste	14 ...	1,405 ...	Corvette	Captain Mead.
BRITISH—Egeria	4 ...	1,011 ...	Sloop	Captain Douglas.
BRITISH—Juno	8 ...	2,216 ...	Corvette	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel	4 ...	462 ...	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
GERMAN—Augusta	12 ...	1,900 ...	Corvette	Captain Hessempflug.
RUSSIAN—Boyan .....	...	2,000 ...	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak	8 ...	1,100 ...	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
RUSSIAN—Vsadnick	8 ...	1,069 ...	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$ 650,000.

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Deputy Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., W. H. Forbes, Esq., Hon. W. Keawick, A. McIver Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., Ed. Tobiu, Esq.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpots, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID MCLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

ALF. L. TURNER,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.
Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
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These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " "	6 "	1	" "
" " "	3 "	½	" "
" " "	1 "	¼	" "
" " "	10 days	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,

Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE**
INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " " 250 "
	Ticket \$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDABEAU,
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Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

GRAND HOTEL, NO. 20, BUND, YOKOHAMA.
AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING
SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

Parents wishful to place children under her charge at the Pension Dogny, may address their enquiries as to terms &c. to the Editor of the *Japan Times*, who is empowered to furnish them.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 15.]

April 13, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

TEA.

MORE than once since the establishment of this Review, have we deprecated the intention of Japanese tea-growers to attempt, this season, the production of what they propose to call 'black' Tea. A writer in a native newspaper, whose article we translate to-day, follows the line we traced in our first number for the guidance of dealers in silk worms' eggs, and—while, in general terms and very properly, objecting to governmental interference with trade—calls on the rulers of the people to protect them against their own proved folly of over-production of silk seed. There is still time for this or some other patriot, to protest in even stronger terms against those engaged in an equally important branch of Japanese Commerce committing commercial suicide—this time urged to the act by a Government Notification.

We lately devoted a certain amount of time and labour to the exposition of the truth,—acknowledged by commercial communities rich in the experience of more years of successful trade than merchants or Ministers in Japan can count weeks,—that, as a rule, all Governmental interference with trade is bad. Trade should be left entirely free; traders will find out their mistakes, and correct them, for themselves. But the Press should also be free, and then newspapers, specially devoted to the service of commerce, will be able to warn and direct, by argument, record, statistics. But in a country like this, destitute of accumulated wealth of capital; with a commercial community and a Government alike destitute of accumulated wealth of knowledge and experience; with its native press heavily fettered, and foreign publicists, who could and would help them, completely muzzled, Government should be especially cautious in its interference with its merchant subjects. Were this Government composed of men like those who ruled the destinies of the great trading Republics of the Middle Ages—such as Venice, Genoa, the United Netherlands—heirs of the experience and practice of generations of merchants—it might be trusted to dictate to the people in what directions their energies might be best directed. But in Japan there are no Medicis, Dorias, or Fuggers, and we see, at the actual moment, a Minister of Commerce refusing to profit by some years' experience in one of the two great divisions of the export trade—abstaining from the slightest word of warning against over-production of silk-worms' eggs, which has already resulted in one enormous loss,—while he dictates orders to those engaged in the other—the tea-trade—to make an experiment which, in the opinion of almost every foreign expert, is certain to lead to another.

In other columns is carefully reprinted an extract from the "Shipping and Commercial List and New York Price Current", a most valuable and reliable Trade Journal, headed "The Tea Trade of the Port of New York, for the year ending December 31, 1877." We believe that but one

or two copies of this exhaustive review of the Tea Trade of the United States have reached Yokohama, and our foreign readers will probably thank us for placing it within their reach. But it is with the hope that it will be studied by Japanese engaged in the Tea trade, and to serve as text and support for the few remarks we have ourselves to make to-day, that we are chiefly impelled to quote it. We are on the threshold of another Tea season, and surely, natives and foreigners alike, we may wisely pause before crossing it, and carefully study the condition of our only market for the leaf. If the native government and native tea-growers are not induced by the facts and figures which that market offers for their guidance—as reflected in this able and trustworthy report, to abandon the attempt to make "black" tea—this journal, for one, will not again offer advice on the subject; for the rôle of wisdom that "crieth aloud in the streets and no man regardeth her" is not one which we have any ambition to fill;—and, if our arguments do not convince our native friends,— "neither would they believe, though one rose from the dead."

The special value of the Report which we quote, and of the tabular statements it includes, lies in the comparisons which it enables us to make between the relative positions, increase or decrease of imports, stocks and consumptions, of the various classes of Teas on the American Continent. It includes the figures and statistics relative to China Teas, as well as to Japans, and thus gives us all the information we require for record or for forecast. The tables show considerable increases in several descriptions, most remarkable in Blacks and Oolongs, which in round figures show an increase of nine-and-a-half million pounds, in comparison with the preceding year, 1876. Green Teas remain nearly stationary, being about half-a-million pounds under the preceding year's Import, and Japans shew an increase of about one-and-a-half millions. The principal feature of interest in this extract is to be found in the Report on "Oo-longs," especially those from Formosa. To this point we would crave the marked attention of our Japanese friends. The islands of Japan assimilate much more closely in climate and position to Formosa, than to the continental country of China. Surrounded by seas, it is natural that Formosa should enjoy a much more humid atmosphere than the provinces whence come the principal supplies of Black Teas; and hence the difference between the heavy, full liquor of the "Congou Tea," in comparison with the aromatic fragrance of the "Formosa Oolong," delicate and rather "light" in the cup, but still well suited to the palate of the American consumer, as is clearly shewn by its increasing popularity, the figures of Import for the two years standing 8,157,603 lbs for 1877, against 3,790,831 lbs for 1876. We are inclined fully to endorse the prediction of the writer in the *Shipping and Commercial List*, that 'if its present standard of excellence be maintained,' its consumption in the United States 'will increase in about the ratio of the increment of production.' This Tea is pre-

pared in Formosa to about the same stage that "Native Cured Teas" are here, but by a somewhat different process, and is shipped from Tamsui to Amoy, where in former years, it was repacked by foreign houses and shipped to their port of destination.

But Chinese are no more exempt from the follies of mortality than are the natives of Japan; and seeing that the "barbarian" packer was making fair profits in that line, they determined to enter the field and sell him ready packed Teas. This was tried last season, but the result will hardly warrant the repetition of the experiment, as the native venturers were losers of fully \$150,000 in the operations in Tamsui. Tea-growers in this country should carefully verify this statement, which they will have no difficulty in doing, by reference to any of their foreign friends in the trade, whose welfare and profit are intimately bound up with their own; and who, their interest lying so certainly in the direction of helping them to a fair profit, would as certainly grudge them no information which would prevent them making a ruinous loss by any similar piece of folly.

If Japanese teagrowers are dissatisfied with the existing position of their leaf, and must make experiments with it, this is what we would advise them to do. Instead of attempting to make black tea, to imitate a product for which their leaf lacks the necessary initial qualifications, let them cure the leaf of some of their provinces, notably Surunga and Esai, in a manner somewhat to the style in which the Formosa Teas are prepared up-country, and Teas so pre-

pared could then receive their finishing touches at this port.

The first Crop of Formosa Oolongs last season were much complained of at Amoy, as they lacked strength and pungency. These had been principally fired and packed by native merchants, but the result was far from satisfactory and entailed heavy losses on the operators. This is another point which our Japanese friends ought most carefully to note. They may be able to fire teas perfectly well to suit the taste of their own countrymen, but it is impossible that they can know, as we do, how the leaf requires to be treated to prepare it for a foreign market, and they are sure to find the results more satisfactory all round, if they will divide the labour—grow and pick and bring down tea themselves, and leave it to us to fire, pack and ship the finished article.

We should like, also, we may conclude by saying, to see the Japanese a little less eager to make these costly experiments. It is true that success cannot be obtained without much labour, and often some loss. But success might be attained as quickly, while loss might be greatly reduced, if they would feel their way gradually, instead of launching out suddenly into ambitious schemes for the extensive production of Congou Teas, the result of which may prove little less disastrous than did the attempt to produce uncoloured Japan Teas "suitable for the American markets," the result of which showed a loss of \$120,000 to \$130,000, against the probable amount the same Teas would have realised in Yokohama, sold here in their un-fired state.

THE TEA TRADE OF THE PORT OF NEW-YORK.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1877.

1877.	GREENS.	JAPANS.	BLACKS.	TOTAL.	1876.	GREENS.	JAPANS.	BLACKS.	TOTAL.
Stock in first hands, Jan. 1, 1877..... lb	5,541,457	5,619,878	5,230,761	16,392,096	Stock in first hands, Jan. 1, 1876..... lb	4,575,293	2,805,381	5,349,327	12,730,001
Receipts from Jan. 1, 1877, to Jan. 1, 1878 ...	15,637,835	16,640,296	17,902,176	50,180,307	Receipts from Jan. 1, 1876, to Jan. 1, 1877 ...	17,993,583	18,977,422	15,924,033	52,895,038
Supply in 1877..... lb	21,179,292	22,269,174	23,132,937	66,581,403	Supply in 1876..... lb	22,568,876	21,782,803	21,273,360	65,625,039
Deduct Stock in first hands Jan. 1, 1878.....	6,438,234	2,462,694	4,568,897	13,469,815	Deduct Stock in first hands Jan. 1, 1877.....	5,541,457	5,619,878	5,230,761	16,392,096
Apparent Consumption for the year 1877..... lb	14,741,058	19,806,480	18,564,050	53,111,588	Apparent Consumption for the year 1876..... lb	17,027,419	16,162,925	16,042,599	49,232,943

THE preceding statistics show an apparent increase in the aggregate consumption of Tea in the United States during the year 1877 of 3,878,645 pounds, which is wholly confined to Japan and Black, the former having gained to the extent of 3,643,555 pounds, and the latter 2,521,451 pounds over the quantity used in 1876. On the other hand, the quantity of Green which entered the channels of consumption fell short of that in 1876 by 2,286,361 pounds. The increased distribution of Japan and Black Tea may be ascribed to two leading causes, viz., to the economical tendency of the times, which has unquestionably turned the consumption more largely than usual upon the cheaper kinds, and to the greater uniformity in the quality of these varieties than is found in Green. In fact, Green Tea has shown a continual gradual deterioration in quality, which, with its higher relative cost, is sufficient to explain its decreased consumption. It is worthy of note that those sections of country which were formerly the largest consumers of Green Tea are gradually turning their attention to the low grades of Japan and Black, and this substitution is evidently the result of the paramount considerations of price and reliability of grade, both of which tell directly in favour of the latter article. That this is the correct exegesis seems to be conclusively shown by the fact that the distribution of the high grades of Japan—the price of which assimilates to that of Green and the better sorts of Black—has not kept pace with that of the low grades. With the consumers of Oolong, Formosa continues to be the favorite kind, as shown by the increased export from China, which for the Tea season of 1877-78 has reached nearly eight million pounds, an increase of nearly one hundred per cent. since the season of 1875-76. When we reflect that it is only about seven years since

Formosa Tea, as such, was first introduced into the United States, the increase in its consumption is truly surprising, and may be said to be due to the general excellence and uniformity of its quality, its strength, and the peculiarity of its flavor being adapted to the tastes of Tea drinkers in all sections of the country. Nearly the entire yield of the Island of Formosa is consumed in this country and we hazard little in saying that, if its present standard of excellence shall be maintained, its consumption by our people will increase in about the ratio of the increment of production. And, as to the maintenance of its quality for a long period, there would seem to be no reason for doubt, since the soil of Formosa is not only virgin, but rich and alluvial, whereas the older Tea plantations of China have become so impoverished as to curtail the yield, and, also, to impair the quality. Foo Chow Oolong may be said to have retained its former popularity, but the quantity received has again been small, comprising, as in the previous year, mainly the finest well known strings or chops, to meet an imperative demand; the supposition being that, through the sharp competition of the Formosa product, the Chinese have been constrained to convert a larger percentage of the leaf into Congou and Souehong for the English market. Amoy continues to be the low-priced popular Oolong Tea among the masses, as shown by the stock at the close, which is the smallest for many years, notwithstanding the large quantity imported. The increased favor with which Congou and Souehong Tea was regarded in 1876 appears to have led to an over-importation during the year under review, and while the consumption has not decreased, the result cannot be said to have been satisfactory to the importers, who, in their efforts to work off excessive supplies, have in some cases

forced prices below the point which affords a profit over and above the cost and charges. The depression, however, has been advantageous to consumers, who have been furnished with an excellent article at a popular price. This should and doubtless will, tend to increase consumption of these descriptions, particularly as there has not only been an increase in the consumption of China leaf in England, but also a large importation to that country of Indian Tea. This latter kind has, as yet, only been introduced here in a small experimental way, but, from the rapid increase of its production, it may figure extensively in our statistics in the years to come. It assimilates in appearance and flavor to the finer grades of China Congou.

The state of trade during the greater part of the year has been, if possible, more unsatisfactory than it was during the preceding year. It is but proper to remark, however, that the Tea trade has been no worse than most other branches. All have suffered from the general industrial and commercial depression, which has hung on with perverse persistency, forcing the masses to a self-denial altogether unparalleled during the present generation. The year, too, has been so fraught with business embarrassments and disasters as to seriously impair public confidence, thereby unsettling values and rendering it difficult frequently to get back a new dollar for an old one. In conjunction with these discouragements, the effort to repeal the resumption law, and the schemes before Congress for making debased silver a legal tender for all debts, public and private, have conspired to disappoint the hopes and expectations of a reaction. The advisability of restoring the duty on Tea has again been agitated, but while events have conclusively demonstrated that breakfast tables are no more "free" than they were before its removal, so many conflicting opinions prevail among our law-makers, that there is little probability of a harmonization of views necessary for the restoration of the impost during the present session, albeit there is very little question as to the feasibility of the proposition among business men in general, and the Tea importers and dealers in particular. The excessive competition in this branch of trade, to which incidental reference was made in our last review, continues to be a marked feature, and has tended to complicate and make matters worse. The renowned China and East India merchant seems to be fast becoming a personage of the past, importing dealers and jobbers having to a great extent usurped the functions of the leading men formerly engaged in the trade of the far East. Tea is now furnished direct to the distributing interests of the interior at the expense of the port of New York, the diversion being estimated by some competent judges to have reached thirty-three per cent. And as if still further to contribute to the depression, we have had a succession of unreserved public sales during the greater part of the year, which closed with an increased stock of inferior Tea and an altogether unsatisfactory market. Prices during the year have not been subject to very wide fluctuations. There was a decline during the Summer and early Autumn, but subsequently most of the loss was recovered.

The short routes of transportation have grown in favour, the number of sailing vessels arrived here during the year having decreased from forty-three in 1876 to thirty-three in 1877, whereas the number of steamers, via Suez Canal direct, in 1877 numbered twelve, against eight in 1876, four in 1875, and six in 1874, to say nothing of the receipts via England and San Francisco.

The cargoes brought by steamers are, as a rule, landed in fine condition, at rates of freight not materially higher than was formerly paid to sailing vessels, and as the new crop thus reaches us much earlier, with something saved in the way of interest, it would seem to be only a question of short time, when the entire carriage will be effected by steam.

GREEN.—During January there was quite an active consumptive demand for fine chops Teenkai and Moyune, and, also, considerable speculative inquiry for "old crop," but Pingsueys sold slowly at rather easier prices, the auction sales exerting a depressing influence on values. The demand during February was of a more satisfactory character, and on some of the lower grades a slight advance was realized. The statistical position of the market for Teenkai and Moyune in March was favorable to the holding interests, and a firm disposition was manifested. The low rates for Japan also attracted the attention of buyers to that description. April was a quiet month, and on Young Hysons and Imperial there was a decline equal to two cents gold ¥ lb., other descriptions remaining steady. The auction sales supplied a large percentage of the wants of the Trade during May, and the market at private was in consequence slow, holders being unwilling to meet buyers at the decline established the previous month. Desirable Teenkai and Pingsueys were in moderate demand at auction prices in June. In July, the market eased off 2 @ 3 cents ¥ lb. Holders having determined to meet buyers at auction prices, sales subsequently were made in August at 3 @ 4 cents below the prices obtained in

June. Favorite chops of old crops sold down to 29 cents. A temporary cessation of unreserved auction sales had the effect of improving the tone of the market in September, followed by a better demand with an advance of 2 @ 3 cents on chops of old crop. Business in October, however, was again checked by the announcement of unreserved auction sales. Old crop Teenkai and Moyune declined 1 @ 2 cents ¥ lb., and sales were reported of fine new crop Moyune at 37 cents gold. The resumption of weekly public sales without reserve in November resulted in weaker prices; new crop Pingsueys and Fine to Finest chops old Teenkai and Moyune were taken in liberal quantities, though at lower prices. During December the demand was limited, and prices of the Finest Moyunes, and chops of Medium and Common Pingsueys were held considerably above buyers' views.

JAPAN.—The year opened with an increased demand, promoted by concessions to buyers. Lower grades sold to a moderate extent in February, but prices ruled low. Medium and Common grades attracted some attention through March, but the better qualities were dull and irregular in price. The market was devoid of animation in April, but there was a somewhat better feeling on the higher grades. Invoices averaging not over 25 cents ¥ lb. were in demand in May, but the market was in anything but a favorable condition. The arrival of several parcels new crop in June gave to the market some appearance of activity, and the opening sales were effected at 50 @ 53 cents for Choicest, 45 @ 53 for Choice, and 40 @ 43 for Finest; these prices, however, were not sustained to the close of the month. Good medium grades declined in July to 21 cents, and a large business resulted. During August the market continued to drag heavily, with good Medium new crop offered at 26 @ 27 cents ¥ lb.; prices of old crop, though weak, were not quotably lower. The month of September witnessed a more active demand, partly speculative, for old crop, with firm but not quotably higher prices. Good Medium and grades below, sold fairly at prices previously current. October brought no change. In November, the market was strong for Common to Medium grades at advanced quotations, owing to the light supply offering. The better grades on the other hand were neglected and nominal. For good Medium to Common grades there was considerable inquiry in December, and former quotations were fully sustained, and the market left off strong on light offerings.

BLACK.—January opened with a good demand for most descriptions of Oolong at 24½ @ 25 cents gold for new crop Amoy, and 23 @ 32 for good to superior Formosa. The market was fairly supplied with Congou and Souchong, but at the prices demanded, business was slow. Speculators entered the market in February and purchased quite freely of Oolong, Amoy advancing to 25½ @ 26½ cents gold for fair to good cargoes. In March, speculators operated quite largely in this description, and Formosa also sold well at a slight improvement in prices. Congou and Souchong declined a trifle, with an easier feeling manifest. In April there was a large business consummated, but at lower prices on all common grades; the better qualities were strong at previous prices. During May there was a fair business, and previous current prices were generally maintained. In June there was general decline, which, however, failed to stimulate purchases. In July Formosa Oolong declined 2 @ 3 cents ¥ lb. from the prices current the previous month, and old crop Amoy was saleable only at lower figures. August showed no improvement, and the receipts of new crop Formosa Oolong sold daily at a loss to the importer; the quality, however, of that to hand was considered poorer than previous seasons. Old crop Amoy also sold at lower prices. The receipts of new Congou were pressed for sale, resulting in the realization of extremely low figures. It was during this month that a movement was started among the prominent dealers, as a measure of relief, not to attend auction sales, but it was without favorable result. In September old crop Amoy Oolong, fair to good cargo, sold at 24 cents gold. The new crop Formosa arriving not being in quality up to the ideas of buyers, in consequence bids were much below holders' views. During October Oolong was in fair demand; new crop Amoy, averaging good cargoes to superior, brought 25 @ 26 cents gold; and new crop Formosa, good cargo, 23; the better grades of the latter, however, were somewhat nominal in price owing to the unsatisfactory quality. New crop Amoy and Formosa Oolong attracted most attention in November. In this month good common Congou sold down to 17 cents currency, closing with a dull market and weak prices. The local Trade operated quite freely during December in Oolong, and the small supply was held with firmness. Congou was neglected, notwithstanding the favorable rates they were offered at. The month and the year closed quietly.

[This is virtually the end of the Report, but although many of our readers, uninterested in the tea-trade, may have had enough of it, they must not grudge to those who care more about the subject

than themselves our occupying a few lines of this page by the reprinting of an explanatory table of statistics.]

EXPORTS OF TEA FROM ALL CHINA AND JAPAN TO
UNITED STATES ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC
FROM JAN. 1 TO DEC. 14.

	1877.	1876.
Congou and Souchong	5,213,868	3,440,822
Pouchong... ..	812,607	246,400
Formosa Oolong	8,157,603	3,760,831
Amoy Oolong	5,967,910	3,031,642
Foochow Oolong	829,681	435,082
Sorts... ..	2,162	1,480
TOTAL BLACK	20,483,831	10,916,257
Sorts... ..	.....	.....
Twankay... ..	202,088	256,151
Hyson Skin ... ..	.....	.....
Hyson	760,793	814,877
Young Hyson	6,072,441	6,694,780
Imperial	824,807	1,626,973
Gunpowder	4,947,673	4,235,629
TOTAL GREEN... ..	12,807,802	13,628,410
Japan Tea	20,991,123	19,173,466
Total Export	54,282,761	43,718,133

IMPORTS AT SAN FRANCISCO.

	CHINA.	JAPAN.
1877	4,721,858	13,507,258
1876	1,095,800	17,556,236
Increase in 1877.....	3,626,058	.....
Decrease in 1877 .....	.....	4,048,978

The *Commercial Herald*, of San Francisco, to which we are indebted for the statistics of that port, says that "the promiscuous branch of importing (by jobbers and dealers) has not, on the whole, been attended with the success anticipated, and must eventually cease to a great extent. Among these latter are some few Oregon houses, and firms in the interior cities of California Utah, &c.

THE COURTS.

WE have, this week, to keep other matter standing over, in order to make room for the second number of our Law Report. As we stated when commencing the series, we do not confine ourselves to the cases of our own local Court; we are ambitious enough to attempt to make our columns a medium for the record of all cases decided by the Supreme Court, which have an important bearing on Eastern trade, or on the position of our fellow residents in the East. To present to our readers such a series of Reports as they may be able to understand; that will give them, with as much conciseness as the matter permits of, a clear idea of the points involved in each case; that will show them alike the guiding principles of the decisions, and the point whence the loser swerved from the narrow lines of law or equity; without wearying them with the jangling of forensic contentions, or the clashings of human depravity,—this is our purpose, and the pages which we dedicate to its accomplishment will, we trust, supply a want which has been for a long time felt. We have often heard mooted the value of a collection, in one series, of the whole of the cases which have been decided, in the local courts of Hongkong, China and Japan, or at home on Appeal. The difficulty of such an undertaking is obvious, the cost of publication would be great and the very limited number of subscribers which could be hoped for would not compensate the producer for the labour and diligence of editing such a series. We thoroughly acknowledge the practical usefulness of such a work: it would save many an hour of weary research to the lawyer, and would save many a heavy fee to the merchant: but we doubt whether any labour in such a cause would be better appreciated than efforts in any

useful work usually are; and unless some distinct encouragement is afforded us, we shall certainly not, ourselves, venture on such a task.

In the case of *Ching Foong v. Lane, Crawford & Co.*, the first noticed in this number, an important principle of commercial law is exemplified; the point is not new, of course, but it has in this case been used to unravel one of the many entanglements which are constantly occurring, in the interpretation of "bought and sold notes." A cargo of Kerosine is purchased "to arrive" in a certain ship, 12,000 cases of 10 gallons each, "damaged cases and leakage to be allowed for;" the cargo arrived in very bad order, all the cases containing the oil being more or less stained, and considerable leakage of the tins having taken place. The purchaser rejected the cargo as unmerchantable. The ordinary leakage in such cargo is less than two per cent; in this, instead of 11,760 cases, only 10,728 cases could be made up out of cargo. The questions for decision were: whether, by the clause in the contract, any amount of leakage or damage was excused, or whether only a reasonable amount was contemplated by the parties: and whether the implied condition, that the cases should be merchantable, *i.e.* fit for the purposes contemplated, was annulled by the express stipulation as to leakage. The jury found for the defendants: considering that ordinary leakage only was contemplated, and that the implied condition did attach, and this finding was endorsed by the learned judge. There was a further point in the case, of great importance, namely that the state of cases was material to the determination of the merchantable condition of the cargo. The decision is a sound one, whether viewed by the light of common sense, or determined by the leading principles of the law merchant.

There is a feature in the case which we are glad to be able to notice, that the action of the defendants in rejecting the cargo was not prompted by the then existing state of the market. They were not very keen about the transaction; but the contract was made during a firm market, and when time for fulfilment came, the market was, if anything, better. Japanese traders should especially note this: for with their existing loose notions of the obligations of merchants, and their hazy ideas of commercial credit and commercial honour, it too often happens that the fulfilment of their contracts depends on the existing state of the markets, and on that alone. Both to them and to foreigners—as kerosine oil is an important staple—we expect that the case, altogether, will be found very interesting. We must not omit to state that we are indebted to the *North China Herald* for the text of our report.

The second case we have selected for record is the charge against Mr. Hartley for smuggling opium. It will be seen from the report, that there was a great divergence between the results of the analysis made by Dr. Geerts, and that made by Mr. North; Dr. Geerts finding only four-tenths per cent and two per cent, respectively, of morphine in the samples submitted; Mr. North finding in one, one-and-a-tenth,—in the other, four-and-a-tenth. Mr. Wilkinson said it was impossible to reconcile the difference: so we must assume that he relied on that of Mr. North, for he decided that the opium was fit for smoking. Now the contention of the prosecution was that there was no morphine in this stuff, therefore it was not medicine,—it was worthless. But if their contention is correct, and we must always bear in mind that the *onus probandi* lies on the prosecution, the stuff in question was not Opium, and therefore the importation thereof is not prohibited. The valuable principle in opium, whether for smoking or for medicine, is morphine. The morphine being expunged, the article ceases to be opium, and becomes "stuff," matter, nondescript, what you will,—and so importable, as rubbish, under some category or other of the Tariff Regulations. Neither can we agree with

the decision of the judge that the less morphine the drug contains, the better it is adapted for smoking. The value of opium, to the opium-smoker, or opium-eater, as well as to the pharmaceutical chemist, varies in direct ratio with the quantity of morphine it contains: the more morphine, the greater delight the consumer gets out of a given quantity. It is well known that the Smyrna drug is the most prized by the European opium-eater; the high price of it alone prevents its use by the Chinese. If, then, we have it established—as we have by the decision in the previous case—that opium containing ten *per cent* of morphine, and coming from Smyrna, may be imported, because it is fit for medicinal purposes; and if the importation of Opium containing only four *per cent* of morphine is prohibited, because it is not fit for medicine, but is fit for smoking;—we can hardly fail to be impaled on one or other of the horns of this dilemma: we must permit what is most destructive to the opium smoker, or we must prohibit what is most valuable and almost essential to the chemist. The difficulty is a grave one, and one, in our opinion to be solved by fair-spirited legislation, rather than by acrimonious litigation. When commenting five or six weeks ago, upon the decision in the first case against Mr. Hartley, we came to the conclusion that the only practical way of enabling the Japanese Government to discriminate between the two classes of opium, or rather between the two destinations of the drug—the chemist's draught, or the smoker's pipe—would be 'to give them the power to demand from the importer satisfactory proof that he imports it for his own use as a medicine, in which case he must be a medical practitioner or a druggist: or that he imports it by direct order from some customer who is either one or the other.' The decision in this second case strengthens us in our conviction.

If they will fill four pages, we propose to report two more cases next week. Meanwhile we have to point out to our readers that the six pages which contain this second number of our Law Reports are so arranged and numbered that they can be bound separately, at the close of the year, from the rest of the paper; and also to state that, so soon as we receive a sufficient number of orders for copies to justify us in doing so, we will reprint, from the number of this Review in which it appeared, Law Reports No. I. which contained the first opium case:—that of *Regina v. Hartly* of February last. In anticipation of this, we number our pages to-day from 5 to 10. At the end of the year we shall furnish subscribers with a title page and index.

'RUINED RIVERS' AND DUTCH ENGINEERS.

FOR more reasons than one, we think it well to elevate the following letter from the comparative obscurity of small print and a correspondence column, at the fag-end of the paper, to a more prominent position.

To the Editor of the "Japan Times."

SIR,—Allow us to insert in your paper a few remarks, in order to protest against the manner in which you attacked in your leading articles of the 23rd and 30th of March the works of Dutch Engineers, which are in course of construction on the Yodogawa and elsewhere.

It is not our intention to discuss the value of your articles from a hydraulic point of view; we merely feel obliged to communicate the following to your readers, to let them judge whether your rude attack is justified or not.

At the request of the Japanese Government, we Dutch engineers made a plan for the improvement of the channel of the Yodogawa, for the mouth of the river, and for works to prevent the sand and other solid matter of the denuded hills from being brought into it.

The expense of improving a river of such magnitude as the Yodogawa being rather high, and the Japanese Government being only willing to expend annually a limited amount of money, it cannot be expected that the improvement should be finished in only a couple of years.

We commenced at the sources of the river by making—as far as the limited means allowed us to do so—barriers, reservoirs and other works, to check the current of the watercourses, and to prevent sand and other solid matter from being carried into the main stream; we also on rather a large scale made works to protect new plantations on the bare, sandy mountains.

At the same time we undertook the improvement of the channel of the river proper between Fushimi and Osaka.

To get as soon as possible some effective results, we undertook first those parts of the river where navigation was most obstructed, or where the dangerous condition of the dikes made it necessary to protect them.

Not "a few hundred yards near Fushimi" only, as you state in your paper, but many places of many hundred yards in length are to be found already, where navigation now meets with no difficulty, and where the dikes are brought into a condition to resist permanently the strongest current.

In view of the good results obtained, the Government has resolved to improve the whole river from Fushimi to Osaka, to continue the works along the torrents and on the sandy mountains, and is about undertaking also the improvement through Osaka down to the sea.

You admit in your article of 23rd March that for such a length of the river as our fascine works ("barriers" as you call them) have been placed in position, they have kept the river-bed clear, by creating or rather assisting the scour.

You go on to say that, in order to be sure of a navigable channel over the whole river, these works should have been made as far as the channel was wanted.

Nobody will deny that.

But then comes your sentence: "which we need hardly say was practically impossible;" and yet, as a matter of fact, not only has the experience, obtained by the works made, shown that it will be quite possible, even with a comparatively small outlay, but actually a considerable part of the whole length between Fushimi and Osaka has already been improved.

Your statement, that the ultimate effect of the work was "to drive down upon Osaka thousands of tons of solid matter," shows either that you did not inspect the river, and did not see how the scoured solid matter found a place behind the groyne and training walls, or that you did not altogether comprehend the system.

Every one must admit that it is most unpleasant for us to continue a discussion, which was started, as it seems to us, without any provocation whatever. We refrain therefore from refuting your statements, that a small ditch like the canal from Osaka to Sakai could spoil such a river as the Yodogawa, that the Ishicari river in the island of Yesso has no bar, that the Shinanogawa is the outlet for the watershed of the provinces Shinawa (?) and Mushashi (!), and that the works, necessary to prevent the sand of the denuded hills from coming down, are certain, inexpensive and easy, that their results are immediately apparent, etc.

We can not however quite conceal our surprise at your apparently mixing us up with former Japanese engineers, who followed a system, which their own countrymen now perceive to be very defective, and at your seeming, for instance, to blame us, as if we had ever approved in the slightest degree of digging the Teradomari canal.

We are, Sir,

Yours truly

C. J. VAN DOORN,
G. A. ESCHER.

Tokyo, April 4th, 1878.

[This letter is so easily answered, that its authors, we imagine, will have reason to regret that it was ever written. It has all the faults which usually disfigure such compositions:—it states its writers' case badly, because it states it from too narrow a point of view; it is open to the grave objection that it presents nothing of the case for the other side that it does not distort; it contains unsupported assertions and garbled quotations; begs the question and suppresses the truth. Such a petard usually hoists its own engineers.

Messrs. Van Doorn and Escher commence by protesting that it is not their intention 'to discuss the value of our articles from a hydraulic point of view,' and seek only to defend themselves against what they are pleased to call an unprovoked and unjustifiable attack.

But our readers, foreign and Japanese, have a greater claim on our consideration than these two gentlemen, and for them, the 'hydraulic point of view' is the only important one. We are fully prepared to maintain the value of our articles, as setting forth the true principles which should guide the hydraulic engineer in rebuilding rivers, and Messrs. Van Doorn and Escher stand convicted, out of their own mouths, of departing from those principles. Our criticism of the work of the past, and our advice as to the operations of the future, were written for the behoof of the Japanese Government, on whom rests the responsibility of expending the public money on such public works to the best advantage. Our allusion to the work of their Dutch employees, on one river only, was incidental and slight: indeed, part of our correspondents' grievance appears to be that we did not sufficiently notice it. To our thinking, we treated them with a singular tenderness: for if we had stated the sums of money thrown away upon their 'small ditch'—as they stigmatize the canal from Osaka to Sakai—and upon their subsequent work farther up the Yodogawa, and had compared expenditure with result, we should have had to conclude the paragraph, by asking our native friends in the Japanese Government whether such a little game was worth such very costly candles.

But, we repeat,—in writing on the large subjects of afforestation and restoration of rivers, Dutch Engineers and their *Zinkstuks* were *minutiae* with which we concerned ourselves very little, and to which we referred quite incidentally. When our essay is completed, their Japanese employers will know where these gentlemen and their favourite hydraulic apparatus can be employed, economically and with advantage. That they are misplaced in the middle section of the Yodogawa is certain. No mere layman, reading our articles of the 23rd and 30th of March, will fail to appreciate the value of our argument that it is to the sources of a ruined river that the attention of the hydraulic engineer should be first, and for the time, solely, directed: only the exercise of simple common-sense is requisite to see that until he has thoroughly checked the discharge of lithic matter from the various contributories into the main bed of the stream, money and labour spent upon that main bed are thrown away. And it is precisely because the expenditure of both money and labour is reduced to a *minimum*, when attacking the sources of the evils which have to be cured, that we hold that these are the points which should be first attacked. A layman can see that this theory is correct; a hydraulic engineer knows that the theory has been abundantly proved by the practice of the greatest men in his profession. But Messrs. Van Doorn and Escher, by their own confession, have committed the grave error of undertaking 'at the same time,' the improvement 'of the channel of the river proper between Fushimi and Osaka,'—that is, in its mid section,—and its reconstruction in the upper section, by making 'barriers, reservoirs and other works, to check the current of the watercourses,' and also, 'on rather a large scale, works to protect new plantations on the bare, sandy mountains.' We may remark, *en passant*, that these 'plantations' were not visible when we lately surveyed the country. And certainly, until the mountains have ceased, to great extent, to deserve the epithets 'bare and sandy,' and until the whole series of works at the watercourses are complete, so that nothing but water escapes from them, the work on the middle section should have been postponed. Foreign engineers who work otherwise are only a degree better than the Japanese, whom we condemned for 'pottering about the rivers' mouths'.

The motive of their error is not far to seek: they ingenuously state it when they tell us that they set to work on the middle section, in order 'to get as soon as possible some effective results'—in other words, to show their Japanese employers something for their money. We must here quote a couple of sentences from their letter in full. They write:—

"At the request of the Japanese Government, we Dutch engineers made a plan for the improvement of the channel of the Yodogawa, for the mouth of the river, and for works to prevent the sand and other solid matter of the denuded hills from being brought into it.

"The expense of improving a river of such magnitude as the Yodogawa being rather high, and the Japanese Government being only willing to spend annually a limited amount of money, it cannot be expected that the improvement should be finished in only a couple of years."

They then go on to state that they went to work, *at the same time*, on the upper section and watercourses, and on the middle section between Fushimi and Osaka—but 'to get as soon as possible, some effective result' they 'first' undertook 'these parts of the river where navigation was most obstructed, or where the dangerous condition of the dikes made it necessary to protect them.' They must have spent a great deal of money on the cart which they thus put in front of the horse, for they tell us that

"not 'a few hundred yards near Fushimi' only, as you state, in your paper, but many places of many hundred yards in length

"are to be found already, where navigation now meets with no difficulty, and where the dikes are brought into a condition to resist permanently the strongest current."

Certainly, no one with any knowledge of the subject,—most certainly not we ourselves,—could expect that the restoration of the Yodogawa 'should be finished in only a couple of years.' But impatience is a patent vice of the Japanese character and, to please them, the temptation is great to pander to this fault, to give them at once, 'something for their money.' But surely foreign scientific men should resist this temptation, and do what they can to cure, not encourage, the defect. When the plan of improving the Yodogawa river was submitted to the native government, it should have been stated so clearly as to be unmistakeable, that no immediate results would be visible. But at the same time, that no large grant of money was necessary. The first thing to be done—they should have been told—was the re-plantation of trees upon hills where the river takes its rise; and as the annual growth of a tree is an arbitrary quantity, which cannot be increased by any expenditure of money; time and patience would be wanted, not cash. We are willing to allow on the other hand, that—given the money, and *zinkstuks* can be made *ad infinitum*, but we hold that expenditure in this direction was unjustifiable, and that it was the engineers' duty to resist, not to encourage it. What has been the result of the plan as carried out? We fail to see what our correspondents call the 'magnitude' of the Yodogawa, but we are fully aware of the magnitude of the cost of their improvements, and they would contribute something to this discussion far more valuable than their present letter, if they would favour us with a few figures.

We gave our correspondents full credit for conscientiousness and industry in the work they have done, and into the details of which they enter more fully than was necessary for our own arguments. And, could we lose sight of the vitiating error, that the work has been done at the wrong time, we might have also have credited them with something more. Not that we by any means approve of their system, which they must give us leave to tell them we 'comprehend' as well as they do themselves. But we greatly prefer the system of 'guiding banks' of Laport and de Vézian, constructed with due regard to the law of reciprocity of curves, as explained by us in the second part of our essay (March 30) which assists the 'rhythmic flow' of the water. And when Messrs. Van Doorn and Escher tell us that we 'did not see how the scoured solid matter found a place behind the groynes training walls'—by which phrase, they give the impression that all the lithic burden of the stream is there deposited:—then we must take leave to tell them that this is one of the points on which we rely, to justify us in accusing them of '*petitio principii*' and '*suppressio veri*.' What we did see was that a small portion of the river's burden was so deposited, but infinitely the greater part was swept down upon Osaka, as we described it, by thousands of tons: and we are fully penetrated with the belief that, while they have, in the middle section of the river, and in isolated spots, improved the navigation and strengthened the dikes, they have done this at the expense of the lower section, and that the mischief they have thus wrought far more than counter-balances the good they have done.

There are but one or two more sentences in their letter which we need notice: and these only in support of the accusations we make in the first paragraph of our reply. First they write:—

"You go on to say that, in order to be sure of a navigable channel over the whole river, these works should have been made as far as the channel was wanted.

"Nobody will deny that.

"But then comes your sentence: 'Which we need hardly say was was practically impossible;'

This is a 'garbled quotation.' What we wrote was as follows:—After stating what had been done, in our opinion, by the works between Fushimi and Osaka, we proceeded:—

"but—to have been of any real value, they should have been continued away, past Osaka to Temposan, and thence some half mile or so out to sea; which we need hardly say was practically impossible."

The 'practical impossibility' in our mind was of course the expense. If Messrs. Van Doorn and Escher will be good enough to tell us how much has been spent on the Yodogawa already, and how many hundred yards, or thousand yards, they have improved;—then, by simple Rule of Three, they may be able to prove 'practically possible' what we affirm cannot be done. But until they give us more arithmetic and less assertion, we shall claim the victory in the discussion.

The last two paragraphs of our correspondents' letter supply us with our proof that they distort our case, and make 'unsupported assertions.' They tell our readers that we have stated that 'the Ishicari river in the island of Yesso has no bar.' Now, in the

articles which they were reviewing, there is no mention whatever of the Ishicari river, whereas there is the very plain statement:—'Every river is more or less obstructed by a bar;—and in another article, the only one in which we mention the Ishicari at all, we say that it has twelve feet of water at its mouth. Nowhere do we say that the Ishicari river has no bar, and this very sentence, taken with its context, as good as mentions that it has one,—with twelve feet of water on it at low tide.

To accuse us of blaming them for digging the Teradomari canal, or for approving of the work, is as complete a mis-statement, and as severe a distortion of our argument. To the best of our belief, the Teradomari canal was dug before these gentlemen came to Japan. We were quoting a report upon it four years old, and had not the Dutch engineers in view at all in writing upon it. The paragraph condemning it certainly followed that containing our strictures upon their works in the Yodogawa; but the two subjects were totally disconnected; and there is not a line in our remarks on the Teradomari cutting, referring in any way to the Dutch engineers. One might as well discern a connection between the marriage and burial services, because they happen to be both in the same prayer-book.

Our friends say that to continue this discussion is unpleasant to them. This is very regrettable, because discussion on so important a subject as Afforestation or the Restoration of Rivers could hardly be more usefully employed. We are specially interested in the 'new plantations' they mention on the water-shed of the Yodogawa; in their works to protect these, made on 'rather a large scale,' and on the 'barriers, reservoirs and other works' which they tell us they have made to check the current of the water-courses, &c.—in fact to do precisely what our articles told the Japanese Government ought to be done. It would perhaps be too cruel to suggest that our articles are responsible for their improvements, but it is not long since we inspected the river between Osaka and Fushimi, and traversed the greater portion of its water-shed; and we must confess to having failed to observe any signs of systematic afforestation of the denuded and disintegrating hill sides, or of scientific treatment of the water-courses. Would our correspondents kindly inform us of the locality, area and cost of these new plantations, these dams, reservoirs, barriers, &c.? These particulars would be a valuable contribution to our present stock of information; and, on our part, we will undertake,—if Messrs. Van Doorn and Escher will favour us with this information, will address us with a little more courtesy, will quote our words with a little more accuracy, and will treat our arguments with a little more justice;—we, on our side, will engage to treat their next letter with a little more respect. Ed. J. T.]

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, April 12th.

SHOULD the number of the arrivals and departures of mail Steamers to any given port be a criterion as to the business of the place, then surely Yokohama must be thriving; but we fear that 'much cry and little wool' is a correcter and conciser way of putting the state of the case. Since our last Notes of the Week were written, three outward and three homeward mail steamers have departed and arrived, besides the usual China and coasting steamers, and an extra mail steamer or two, to and from Kobe. The *China* left for San Francisco on Saturday morning last, followed by the *Volga* on the 9th and the *Malacca* on the 10th for Hongkong and Europe. The *China* and *Oceanic* from San Francisco arrived on the 6th and 11th respectively. The P. and O. Steamer *Nizam* that was bringing the London Mail of March 1st having broken down and put into Saigon for repairs, her mails will be brought on by the first opportunity which occurs after their arrival in Hongkong. The next homeward mail is the French, which

leaves here on Wednesday next, due in London June 10th. The *China* is advertised to sail for San Francisco to-morrow week.

The rowing season was inaugurated by the Y. E. C. at their new boat house on Saturday last, but owing to the inclemency of the weather the usual procession of boats could not take place.

The many friends here of General Van Buren were sadly disappointed to find on the arrival of the *Oceanic* that he was not a passenger thereby. We are sorry to hear that the gallant General was detained in New York through indisposition, but we trust that ere this, he has recovered and is on his way hither to fill the gap that was caused by the absence of so useful a member of the Consular Board, and of this Community.

We are glad to notice from the *Army and Navy Gazette* that some deservedly popular officers and friends of many in Yokohama have received advancement in a service where promotion is anything but rapid. Colonel Richards, Lieutenant Colonel Burton and Captains Walsh and Broughton of the Royal Marines have each got a step in rank.

The man Cannon, who has been taking up so much of the valuable time of our indefatigable Law Secretary, has been leniently sentenced to six months imprisonment after a most patient hearing. The defence set up was too transparently thin to receive the slightest attention. Can any one fancy a Japanese, of all nations, giving credit for thirteen years? It is true that this was the period for which the Government lent its paper in 1870, but this can hardly be urged as a precedent in ordinary mercantile operations.

From larceny to burglary is but one step. Our next door neighbours, the P. & O. Co., were broken into one day this week; a tin lined case of books was all the property that was carried away and that was subsequently found, opened but with the contents intact, near the public gardens.

THE PERFORMANCE IN AID OF THE CHINA FAMINE FUND.

NO resident in Yokohama needs to be told that the prominent social event of the week has been the entertainment given at the Gaiety Theatre on the night of the 10th inst., in aid of the China Famine Fund. We have more than once expressed our opinion of the chances of these contributions reaching the miserable creatures for whose benefit they are subscribed, indeed of the possibility of relieving the poor people at all, but we will not mar the graciousness of the present gift by the repetition of the expression of an opinion which we find to be in opposition to that of a majority. Captain Bridgford's announcement, at the end of the performance, that a repetition of it would take place to-morrow, for the benefit of a local charity, the Yokohama General Hospital, was received with a well-deserved sympathy, and we suppose that no one will quarrel with us when we say that in this we ourselves cordially share.

The dramatic or musical critic is expected, by most amateurs, to discharge his duty to the public in a very inefficient way: to touch very lightly on their faults, and to bring out, as prominently as possible, any point in their performances which will carry a gilding, however thin, of praise. Amateurs have, certainly, a considerable claim to indulgence in this respect. They must necessarily deny themselves many other pleasures which would otherwise fill the leisure hours they devote to rehearsal, they have to submit themselves to a wholly uncouth and irksome discipline, and restraint, to exercise much forbearance towards each other's shortcomings, to go through a certain amount of positive drudgery which must remind them of their schooldays. But they have, on the other hand, their compensatory pleasures—or, of course, none would suffer the pains. They have all the fun of the rehearsals, with the infinity of jest and bye-word which arise from each other's mistakes or misfortunes; they have the pleasure of surmounting difficulties and contriving substitutes for the orthodox appliances and 'properties' of the real stage; they enjoy the childish pleasure—and what pleasures are so keen, so full of delight as the pleasures of childhood—of 'playing at work,' of doing 'for fun' what many of their hard-worked fellow-creatures have to do for a minute number of shillings a week; they have the opportunity of displaying their personal advantages to perfection in fancy dresses, and of exercising their artistic taste and displaying their judgment, in arrangement of colour and choice of material, their historical and archaeological lore, in designing costumes or modelling accessories. So much for the preparation. Then they have the crowning pleasures of the excitement and the triumph, on the nights of performance: of effort achieving success, and rewarded on the instant by applause, which an audience of friends never grudges, nor gives in stinted measure—and they have the culminating delight, worth all the rest of their pleasures together, of the supper afterwards, in costume, when all their little troubles are over, and when compliments are as abundant, as sweet, and as frothy as the champagne.

But they cannot escape the common lot. The mimic life of the stage closes with the falling curtain, and almost before the foot-lights are down, reaction sets in. Cruel would be the critic who could add to the natural depression of spirits inevitable to the 'next morning,' too harsh a review of their efforts to amuse. But something is due also to the audience who have had no share in all the varied pleasures of the actors which we have detailed, and have sometimes even been consumedly bored, and yet had to simulate being vastly entertained. Many an amateur actor, too, especially if of any length of standing, despises the criticism that is all flattery, and is glad to take the hints that are given him from those who, he knows, must be better able to judge, from the front, of the effect of his performance, than he can possibly do on the stage. Of stronger fibre than the delicately susceptible being who cannot exist without applause, and faints under dissection of his reading of a part; than the Lord Fannies of whom it might be written

'Strange that the soul, that very fiery particle,
Should let itself be snuffed out by an article,'

he adopts suggestions which are worth having, and amends faults which he finds remarked. Though, therefore, dealing tenderly where tenderness is requisite, and rather hinting disapproval by silence, than giving it full expression, the critics of this Review will not entirely abdicate their censorship. As indeed may be seen to-day.

Who may be responsible for the selection of the *lever de rideau* to *Trial by Jury* is no business of ours, but we cannot but express extreme surprise that the indubitably talented actors who were so good as to take part in it should have been condemned to waste their ability upon a wretched trifle, that was damned in London, and most deservedly damned too, before it had run a week. Nothing could possibly be done with such a piece but to make it a succession of carefully dressed, carefully grouped, *tableaux vivants*, in which every atom of accessory colour and costume should have been the subject of a study, in which a critic's eye could no more detect a flaw than in one of Meissonier's pictures. And how can this possibly be done here, in Yokohama, where gentlemen of the Georgian era have to walk the stage without swords, where a silk stocking to match a coat cannot be got for love or money, where there appears to be no authority, living or written, on the question of costume, where a valet is dressed apparently in the cast-off clothes of his master's great grand father, and where Gainsborough's Duchess of Devonshire sits on one of Lane and Crawford's garden chairs? Amateurs should, of course, always choose 'dress' pieces, but, and especially when a company is so fortunate as to have ladies to fill the lady parts, and ladies—we may be permitted, we hope, to say—competent to fill really arduous parts with force, grace and tenderness; then it really becomes provoking that opportunity should be squandered by the presentation of such rubbish as 'Atchi.'

'Atchi' being absolutely beneath criticism, we gladly pass to *Trial by Jury*, which, after a little difficulty with the mechanical 'lever de rideau,' which set the audience laughing before the 'Trial' began, was at last—after so many weeks of anticipation, presented to the eager spectators.

This work was first produced about three years ago at the New Royalty Theatre in London, at that time under the management of Madame Selina Dolaro. Since then it has frequently been performed at other London theatres, and in numerous provincial towns, and has even travelled to the colonies. Our neighbours of Hong-kong and Shanghai have also given the piece, but shorn of most of its beauties and attractions, by reason of the necessity of giving the female parts to male voices. Here, thanks to the noble spirit evinced by the ladies of Yokohama whenever the word 'charity' is mentioned, we were treated to a representation such as we have never enjoyed before in this benighted corner of the globe.

We cannot too heartily thank the Choral Society (and above all, the ladies, especially the bridesmaids, who played their parts to perfection, for so generously giving up some weeks of their regular work to the preparation of *Trial by Jury*. We deeply regret that the accompaniments were, after all, rendered by two jingling pianofortes, admirably as these were played, instead of by the excellent little band under Mr. Wagner's direction. This would have added immensely to the *tout ensemble* and we can hardly understand why their aid was not availed of, especially as the Band parts were all prepared. The quality of the Orchestra was thoroughly evinced in Roesini's fine prelude to "L'italiana in Algeri" a set of Strauss' ever-verdant waltzes and the charming Overture by Suppe to the *Mauer und Schlosser*. But we suppose that, superadded to the really great difficulty of drilling over thirty vocalists, that of bringing another *corps*, of a different arm of the service, into line with them, was too much, even for the gallant commander-in-chief and his able lieutenants.

It would be a work of supererogation to sketch the trifling plot of this 'Dramatic Cantata' of Gilbert and Sullivan, the out-come of that wild, wierd, English humour which sees the joke of a baby being sat upon, or roasted,—in mistake for a sucking-pig—in a pantomime, and sympathises with and applauds that atrocious criminal *Punch* who, after committing a dozen murders, finally cheats the hangman, and hardly succumbs to the Devil. It is with the music, of course, that we have now chiefly to do. Though far inferior to that of *Coz and Boz*, this is pleasing, melodious and tuneful, without being in the least original: it shows evident marks of haste in composition, and savours much of plagiarism and *pasticcio*. For instance, the *sestett* reminds one very forcibly of part of the *Sonnambula*, and other portions of the work irresistibly recall strains of Donizetti and Offenbach. Still in some parts it is admirably suited to the spirit of the situations; notably in the characteristic chorus of Jurymen:—"Oh, I was like that when a lad," in the joyous Intrada, where the bridesmaids usher in the "disconsolate fair," and again, where the bridesmaids endorse the Defendant's touching appeal to the Jury:—"But this he is willing to say, &c."

These are the gems of the work, and were so well rendered as to call forth a very whirlwind of applause, with demands for repetition which could not be denied. Indeed the execution of the whole Chorus work was thoroughly good, and by far the best part of the performance. It reflects great credit on all concerned, Conductor, singers and stage manager—that hard-worked but ill-rewarded slave of the lamps, on whom depends all the 'go' of a piece, and who gets so little recognition of his merit.

Touching the execution of some of the principal parts, we must own to no little disappointment. Our leading musical Amateurs here have, in times past, won for themselves such great renown, that the public has some right to feel aggrieved when any of them fail to rise to the situation and neglect to do justice to their parts. The *Usher* was, as usual, a finished performance, carefully studied; the make-up capital, and all the music well given, while appropriate and not overdone by-play greatly added to the general effect—the *Counsel* also gave a careful rendering, but shewed symptoms of a little nervousness, doubtless caused by his being compelled to roam about the stage, instead of being provided with his usual seat and table, whereon to deposit his books and papers. His make-up, in caricature of a leading ornament of our local bar, who has just left us for Europe, was extremely good, and the caricature, who has so often suffered from Mr. Wirgman's pencil, will regret having been absent from the Gaiety Theatre, when Mr. Henley held the mirror up to nature.

The acting of the *plaintiff*, *prima donna*, was thoroughly good, and the part was magnificently, but appropriately dressed. The *Defendant* displayed his really superb voice in a manner which gratified his every hearer, and surprised us, by acting his part, too, with more ease and confidence than we had given him credit for possessing. It is not given to every tenor to be also an actor, and, listening to a Mario, one could forgive the singer, were his pantomime that of a *marionette*. Listening to Mr. Hyde, all that was left to desire was that an organ of such power and really exceptionally fine quality should have been wasted in drawing rooms, instead of receiving the training which would have given us another English tenor for the lyric stage. When supported by the fresh, pure, joyous voices of the 'rosebud garden of girls' who deserted their queen to assist him in his defence, the perfection of part-singing was reached, so completely did the *tons* of his voice harmonise with theirs, while giving full masculine 'body' to the melody. This number pleased us better than any other piece in the *cantata*. It was, of course, redemanded and a 'double encore' would have left us unsatisfied.

The *Judge*, from whom we had expected the most, gave us the least satisfaction. False notes, lapses in time, false dressing (for only when sitting in *banc*, or when trying criminal cases, do judges appear in scarlet robes and full-bottomed wigs) and, worst of all, in so experienced an actor, a false reading of the part. It may be that the traditions of a former success clung so closely to Mr. Pearson's memory, as to have muffled his judgment; otherwise it is difficult to understand how so accomplished an artist should have failed to see that the vulgarity of a journeyman hatter is totally out of place on the *Nisi prius* bench. Not 'to split the ears of the groudlings, who for the most part are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumb shows and noise,' not 'to make the unskilful laugh, while it cannot but make the judicious grieve'—but 'to hold, as't were, the mirror up to nature'—this, Mr. Pearson should have remembered, is the duty and the privilege of the actor, be he amateur or professional, and he who oversteps the modesty of nature deserves all the contempt and opprobrium which *Hamlet* heaps upon him in the great speech we quote. His first entrance was wrong, and in violation of both precedent and propriety: far more effective would have been his appearance, had he been marshalled into Court by the *Usher*, in-

THE JAPAN TIMES LAW REPORTS. No. II.

IN H. B. M. SUPREME COURT AT SHANGHAI.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq. and a Jury.

CHING-FOONG *versus* LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

1878 } THIS was an action to recover Tls. 26,995, the
Feb. 13. } contract price of 12,000 cases of kerosine
oil, sold by the plaintiff to the defendants.

The contract was made through a broker, and bought and sold notes, signed by plaintiff and defendants respectively, were exchanged between the parties on the 22nd of November, 1877. The terms of the said notes, which were identical in form, showed a contract for the sale by plaintiff to the defendants of 12,000 cases of Devoe's kerosine oil, each case to contain 10 gallons of oil in two tins, to arrive *per* S.S. *Rajanattianuhar* from Hongkong, price Tls. 2.60 per case, to be delivered one month after landing, buyers to have option of taking godown orders for same as soon as landed, in which case to be allowed one month's discount on purchase money; "*damaged goods and leaky cases to be allowed for by the seller.*" The ship arrived on Nov. 27th, with 12,000 cases on board, and the unloading thereof commenced at once and the cargo was landed with all convenient speed. On the 2nd of December the defendants were informed that a considerable number of the cases were found to be leaky and oilstained, and that the cargo could be inspected at Muirhead's godown, Pootung, where kerosine was usually stored. On the 3rd of December, defendants wrote to plaintiff, refusing to accept delivery of the cargo, as the same was damaged and unmerchantable. The petition contained the above facts, and further alleged, that plaintiff never warranted his 12,000 cases free from damage, merchantable, or fit for shipment: and also set up a custom of the port of Shanghai under following terms:

"the practice in the kerosine oil trade at Shanghai, when such oil has been sold and purchased in bulk, and the tins containing the oil are found before delivery to have leaked, is for the vendor to fill up tins which have leaked, one from the other, so as to complete the quantity of 10 gallons in each case—this practice has been followed in the case of the 12,000 cases *ex s. s. Rajanattianuhar* purchased from the plaintiff by the defendants as hereinbefore stated, and the result has proved, after refilling the leaky cases, to be that there were and are 10,798 cases of Devoe's Kerosine Oil, each containing 10 gallons of oil remaining out of the 12,000 cases of oil originally laden on board the *s.s. Rajanattianuhar* for the voyage from Hongkong to Shanghai, during which the contract mentioned in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of this petition was concluded," and then averred tender of 10,798 cases, and readiness and willingness to deliver the same.

The defendants, in their answer, admitted the terms of the contract as stated, but traversed the statement that the ship arrived with 12,000 full cases of kerosine on board, and also traversed the plaintiff's readiness and willingness to deliver, in the following terms:—

"The defendants, in answer to the petition, further say that at no time since the making of the contract, mentioned in the petition, has the plaintiff been able to perform his part thereof, and at no time has he offered to the defendants the 12,000 cases of oil which they contracted to buy. The plaintiff did offer to the defendants certain cases and tins containing oil, but the same were wholly unsaleable and unmerchantable, owing, as the defendants are informed and believe, to their having been shipped in bad order and condition at Hongkong."

"Lastly, the defendants deny that the plaintiff has suffered damage from any act or default of the defendants."

At the time of signing the contract, neither of the parties were aware of the condition of the cargo, the plaintiff having bought the same cargo "to arrive" from a merchant, a few days previous to the sale to the defendants. When the cargo was landed, it was found to be in a bad state, all the cases being stained, and more than half the tins leaky; 5,150 cases were sound, 6,850 required to be filled up; these 6,850 produced after the filling process was completed 5,648 cases; 1,202 remaining empty. The defendants refused to accept the cases tendered to them,

because they were unmerchantable. At first the defendants set up the defence that the cargo was not fit for shipment to Japan; but this defence was abandoned by defendant's attorney, as there was no evidence to show that plaintiff knew that defendant wanted the cargo for the Japan market. [It further appeared that tender was made to the defendants of 12,000 clean and sound cases of kerosine, portion of a cargo by another ship. These too, the defendant refused to accept, and much evidence was given on the negotiations which took place for the acceptance of this cargo by the defendants: but as the judge directed the jury to dismiss from their minds all they had heard relating thereto, this evidence is omitted.] The practice of the trade at Shanghai with regard to leaky cases of kerosine, was shown to be as stated by plaintiff's petition;—that all cases containing leaky tins were placed apart, and the deficiency made up to ten gallons in each case; but it was also shown that the average leakage in a cargo in good condition, amounted to one half per cent in cargo by sailing ship, and to three quarter to one per cent in that by steamer. The cargo in question, as exemplified by the samples in court, three cases from the portion containing sound tins, and three cases from among those which had been refilled, was stated to be saleable in Shanghai among Chinese in quantities of from 100 to 1,000 cases at Tals 2.25, the market price for cases in good condition being Tals 2.50 to 2.60. At the time of contract, the market was firm; when the cargo was landed, the market price had risen to Tals 2.90 but subsequently experienced a decline to Tals 2.50 to 2.60. The other facts of the case sufficiently appear from the arguments of the advocates and the charge of the judge to the jury.

A. ROBINSON for the plaintiff. In the first place, the only two conditions which were necessary to be fulfilled to make the bargain between the plaintiff and the defendants complete, were—first, that the steamship *Rajanattianuhar* should arrive at Shanghai; and, secondly, that she should have on board 12,000 cases of oil: (Benjamin on Contracts of Sale, first edition, page 436.) If the *Rajanattianuhar* had not arrived, or had she arrived having jettisoned a quantity of the oil, there would have been no bargain or sale between the parties at all; but the moment she did arrive with the 12,000 cases of oil on board, the sale was completed, and plaintiff was bound to deliver, and defendants were bound to accept, the cargo of oil in accordance with the terms of the contract. (Heyworth v. Hutchinsons, L.J. Queen's Bench, page 270.) The defendants were bound to take delivery, and if they were not satisfied, their remedy was to sue upon the agreement for an allowance, or plead the inferiority of the article tendered, in reduction of the price. In the present case, an allowance had been tendered for damaged and leaky cases; and it would be for the Jury to decide whether that allowance was a reasonable one or not. The material item in this particular contract was to be found at the end of it. Generally it would be seen that in the printed form of bought and sold notes there were the words, "N.B.—Damaged goods to be rejected." It would be seen in reference to this, that before the parties signed the contract, they struck out "rejected" and substituted, in writing, "damaged and leaky cases to be allowed for in godown." The evidence would show that a contract in that particular form was a very uncommon one; the ordinary form was for the seller to sell the oil with the damaged cases to be rejected, or with a clause that the cases should be in good condition, but it was very seldom that there was a distinct stipulation that there should be an allowance for damaged and leaky cases as in this instance. Both parties knew no doubt what they were doing when they agreed to that stipulation. Defendants appeared to have had some knowledge of the cargo they were purchasing, and plaintiff had been careful to sell on the same conditions under which he bought; and they had expressly struck out the power which the defendants would otherwise have had in the ordinary course of things to reject damaged cases, and substituted a distinct stipulation that an allowance for them was to be made. Notwithstanding this, defendants wished to claim a right to reject the cargo, but they were plainly precluded from taking that course by the alteration made in the printed form of the contract. The grounds upon which they claimed a right to reject the cargo were, that it was not saleable or merchantable. Defendants had further said that it was wholly damaged and unfit for shipment, because

the cases, in which the oil was packed, were not in good condition. That was their contention. The reply to that on behalf of the plaintiff was that the contract did not pretend to say the cargo would not be damaged. What it did say was this. It expressly stated that if there were any damaged or leaky cases, an allowance was to be made for them; but there was no power for the defendants to reject them. The parties had plainly contracted with the view to meet a possibility—damaged and leaky cases. That possibility had taken place, and plaintiff had offered what he considered a reasonable allowance, thereby carrying out his part of the contract. The proper course for the defendants to have taken, having agreed to purchase certain quantity of cargo to arrive, and that cargo being here, and they finding fault with it on account of the damaged state of the cases, and being dissatisfied with the plaintiff's allowance—an allowance quite equal to any other made under similar circumstances—was to have paid into Court the amount which they considered themselves liable to pay. That would seem to be a reasonable course for them to have adopted, much more so than the one they had adopted, by which, notwithstanding the plain reading of the contract, they seemed to believe that they were entitled to damages for the non-delivery of 12,000 full cases of oil—a thing never contemplated.

Again as to the contention that there was an implied term in the contract that the defendants should receive 12,000 cases in a saleable and merchantable condition; it is clear that no implied terms can be imported into any contract upon a matter expressly provided for by the contract.—*Expressum facit cessare tacitum*. (Benjamin on Sales, 1st. Ed'n P. 491 and see case of *Dickson v. Zizinia* 20 L. J. C. P. P. 72) Moreover the plaintiff contracted to sell oil, he did not contract to sell cases; and he believed it was beyond all power of dispute that if the oil had been in perfectly clean cases, there would not have been a shadow of reason for any allowance to be made by the plaintiff or for the defendants to reject it. It was entirely the cases they objected, not to the oil in them, and it was not admissible to them to raise any implied term in the contract with regard to the cases, when the parties had expressly contracted as to what should be done if a certain thing occurred, namely, if any of the cases were damaged or leaky. The cases have nothing to do with the oil (*Gower v. Van Dedolzen*, 3 Bing. N.C.P. 717). But even if it was an implied condition, that the oil should be saleable and merchantable, he had another answer to urge to that plea raised by the defence, namely, that it was untrue in fact;—it would be proved that the oil was saleable as it stood. Mr. Robinson also cited the case of *Lucas v. Bristow* 17 L. J. Q. B. P. 364, to show that, as it was a clear stipulation in the terms of the contract, that leaky cases should be allowed for, sufficient had been done by the plaintiff in tendering the 10,798 full cases of oil, together with a fair allowance, on account of the missing cases, to entitle them to compel the defendants to accept delivery of cargo and to pay for the same.

R. F. WAINWRIGHT for the defendants. His defence was two-fold, 1st the oil was not a merchantable or marketable commodity, when it arrived at Shanghai, and 2nd., that the plaintiff was never in a position to perform his contract; that he never at any time offered to the defendants, and never was in a position to offer them, the goods they had contracted for. A man was not bound to take anything less than he had contracted to buy: and it was clear that the plaintiff was never in a position to deliver to defendants what they contracted for. He offered them nine-tenths of the whole quantity, but it was admitted that he was never able to offer them the remaining tenth. He would deal first with the branch of his defence;—that the oil was not marketable. The contract was a contract for the purchase of 12,000 cases of kerosine oil; each case to contain two tins, and each tin to contain five gallons. The oil was to arrive by the *Rajanathianuhar* from Hongkong; and he would admit, with his learned friend Mr. Robinson, in order to constitute a binding contract where goods were bought to arrive, that it was necessary the ship should arrive and that the goods should be on board. That was all Mr. Robinson had said was necessary. But he would add one more term, which was that the goods when they arrived should be fit for use—saleable and marketable. He was not going into the question raised by

the foot note on the contract, at present. That would come in due course; and he would now simply call attention to the proposition of law on which this first branch of the defence was based, namely, that there was an implied warranty in every sale of goods that they should be marketable. (Benjamin on Sale, 2nd edition, page 539. *Jones v. Just*, 37 L. J., Q. B. 89; *S. C. L. R. 3 Q. B. 197*.)

[His Lordship. There can be little doubt on the point; the difficulty is:—What were the 'goods' in this case?]

Mr. WAINWRIGHT—Undoubtedly that was the next question to be considered, and he thought there could be no doubt that in kerosine oil such integral parts as the cases were 'goods.' Great quantities of kerosine oil came to Shanghai, and everybody dealing in it knew that it was brought here to be sold to merchants, and then to be retailed to native consumers; and, also, that it was a large branch of the trade to reship to Japan and the outports. Therefore, it was self-evident that the oil would have to be handled about a great deal, and sent from place to place; and under such circumstances there was no doubt that the condition of the tins containing the oil and the cases in which they were packed, were most material parts of the commodity itself; in fact, if the tins and cases were not good the oil would not be saleable. And this applied most particularly to this part of the world, where the Chinese examined the cases of goods so minutely, and doubtless knew Devoe's cases of kerosine oil and the kind of tins it was put in, quite as well as Devoe himself. The Chinese trusted a great deal to the receptacle containing the oil, perhaps more so than to the quality of the oil itself; and that being so, his Lordship and the Jury could hardly fail to believe that the cases and the tins round the oil, now the subject of enquiry, formed a most important and material part of the commodity. On this point his learned friend had cited the case of *Gower v. Van Dedolzen*, 3 Bingham, New Cases, page 717, and he (Mr. Wainwright) would call attention to the same case. In giving judgment, Tindal, C. J. said he could conceive cases in which the condition of the receptacle might be material, and damage thereto would be a good defence; and this was a case meeting that view. He hoped to show that kerosine oil, in leaky tins and in damp saturated cases, was an unsaleable article; and that a man who found himself saddled with 10,000 or 12,000 such cases could not dispose of them except at a ruinous loss. In further support of the argument that there was always an implied contract that goods bought on description should be marketable, he cited the case of *Mody v. Gregson*, 38 L.J., Exchequer Reports, page 12, and *Chitty on Contracts*, page 419; and then said he would pass on to consider whether the foot note, "damaged goods and leaky cases to be allowed for in go-down," on the contract, in the present case, was sufficient to override that general proposition of law. His learned friend, Mr. Robinson, had argued that it was contemplated that the tins should leak, and that the cases should be stained and saturated with oil, which was to be a mere matter of allowances between the parties. He differed from that view, and thought he should be able to show, to the satisfaction of his Lordship and the Jury, that the meaning of the foot note must be taken to apply to what was generally understood to be the custom of the trade in Shanghai, and that it only meant that the ordinary percentage of damage and leakage was to be the subject matter of compensation, and that it did not mean that a number of the tins might be empty. That was what his learned friend's contention amounted to—that if all the tins were empty, defendants were bound to take 12,000 cases, and to pay something for them, subject to an allowance. It was a well understood proposition of law, that every contract must be interpreted reasonably; and the first thing to do was to look at the objects and intentions of the parties. However, he did not propose to go more fully into the question of the foot note on the contract, until he had produced his evidence. Various brokers would be called and depose to what was the custom of the trade at Shanghai, and they would also say what was the meaning of a stipulation of this kind; then the jury could form their own view of the matter. He would now touch upon the other branch of his defence—the way in which the contract was to be performed by the plaintiff. Now, on this point, it was most material that it was admitted by the plaintiff himself that he never had 12,000 cases of kerosine oil, of this particular cargo by the

Rajanattianuhar, to deliver to the defendants; he had tendered them nine-tenths of the total quantity, but that was not the 12,000 cases he contracted to give them. And what was further important on this point was, that the plaintiff had himself put it out of his own power to give them the 12,000 cases. When the steamer arrived, instead of going to the defendants and saying: "There is your oil, take it, and I will consider the question of leakage," which he ought to have done according to Mr. Robinson's contention, he went to work himself, at his own expense, refilling the tins from one another and tinkering up the cases, until he converted the 12,000 into 10,798 cases, thus rendering it impossible for him to tender the full quantity of cases, according to his contract with the defendants. In taking that course the plaintiff had not acted wisely, for he hoped to establish that it was a principle of law, that a man was not bound to take a less quantity of goods than he was entitled to have by his contract. In support of that he referred to Benjamin on Sales, page 568, and cited the cases of *Oxendale v. Wetherall*, in vol. 9 of *Barnwell and Cresswell's reports*, page 386, and that of *Morgan v. Grath*, 34 L.J., *Exchequer reports*, page 165, and in addition read an extract from *Leeke on Contracts*, page 437. There was not the least doubt it was a proposition of law that a man was not bound to take less than he contracted to have, and the only way to get out of it was to establish some kind of custom to show that though the purchaser contracted to buy a certain number of cases, he was not expected to take them, but to take only what the seller offered him. There was an assertion in this case that it was the custom of the trade in Shanghai to fill up leaky tins. It contemplated a certain amount of leakage no doubt. I admit that it does, but I shall be able to prove that the amount of leakage contemplated was only the ordinary percentage, and plaintiff's own witnesses have put it down at a half or three quarters per cent., but I shall say it is from one to two per cent.

I take it that it is an undoubted principle of law, that a man is not bound to take less than he buys, and that it is a good defence to this action. I apprehend, also, that in the kerosine oil trade of Shanghai, if a purchaser buys 12,000 cases and is only offered 10,000, that he is not legally bound to take them; or, to carry it further, that he is not legally bound to accept one less than he contracted to have, that is, as a principle of law. A less number might be received for convenience, but I shall prove that it was most inconvenient for the defendants that they could not get the full number they contracted for.

MR. MOWATT. (Acting C. J.) to the Jury. I shall ask you, gentlemen, as I intimated during the speech by Mr. Wainwright, to put out of your minds everything that you have heard about the *Golden State* cargo, because, after consideration, it seems to me that it has at the most so slender a bearing on the case that it will be safer to discard it from your minds altogether. As I understand it, it is introduced with this view. Plaintiff says, You will see from what occurred in the matter of the *Golden State* cargo, that Mr. Wilson was not really anxious to buy oil at all, otherwise he would not have refused to take it because it was a few minutes late in being put into the godown, and you may infer from this that he was not very anxious to buy the other cargo, and consequently he has thrown it over, not because he considered it unsound and deficient, but really because he was not anxious to buy. I think you can place so little reliance upon inferences of this kind, that it would be much better to confine your attention altogether to the cargo that is the subject of the suit. Now, the first question you will have to consider is this—Has the plaintiff substantially performed his part of the contract? For, unless he has done so, he cannot come into Court and ask that the defendants should be compelled to perform theirs. The defendants' case is that the plaintiff has not performed his contract in three essential particulars, and if you should find that he has failed in any of the three, then you must give the defendants your verdict. The three particulars that the defendants say the plaintiff has failed in, in respect to the contract, are these:—First, in the matter of the quantity of the goods he contracted to supply; next, in the matter of the quality of the goods; and, lastly, in the matter of the time at which he contracted the goods would be ready for the defendants. Now, I will take these three points separately, and then ask you to consider the evidence upon them, and the plaintiff's answer to the

various objections. The first, no doubt, is the crucial one, that the quantity of the oil was not what he undertook to supply. By the contract 12,000 cases of oil were to be supplied, with the proviso that damaged and leaky cases were to be allowed for. What is the cargo that the plaintiff brought to the port to fulfil that contract? He brought 12,000 cases of oil, all of which were damaged—damaged in the sense that I understand the word to apply in this case, that is, they were all oil-stained—and 57 per cent of those 12,000 cases were leaky, and leaky to the extent on an average of nearly one-fifth of each case. So we have a contract to supply 12,000 cases of oil, subject to an allowance for damage and leakage, and we have 12,000 cases offered all damaged, and 57 per cent of them leaky and badly leaky. Then, the question is—Does that cargo sufficiently satisfy the requirements of the contract? This makes us look a little more closely at the language of the contract.

You have had the views of four merchants as to how they would understand a clause of this kind in their own business; and they have all told you with one accord that they would understand it as contemplating only the usual percentage of leakage. It has been urged by Mr. Robinson that the construction of the contract is for me, and, if it is so, as I think it is, the construction I put upon it is the same. We cannot suppose it was in the contemplation of the parties that the plaintiff should be at liberty to supply the defendants with 12,000 leaky or damaged cases. A good deal of stress has been laid on the word "rejected" having been struck out of the contract. The printed form is "damaged goods to be rejected", and in place of that is inserted the term "damaged and leaky cases to be allowed for in godown." The effect of the alteration is this—it makes a difference only in *how* damaged and leaky cases are to be dealt with, and does not at all affect the extent to which unsound cases may enter into the quantity contracted for. If the word "rejected" had stood, the purchaser would have been entitled to reject the damaged cases. By the alteration he was not at liberty to reject them; he had to take them at an allowance. But, in either case, they must not form an unreasonably large proportion of the original quantity. Now the cases were all damaged and 57 per cent of them leaky, and I ask you whether you consider that a sufficient performance of the plaintiff's contract? I have said the cases were all damaged. We have the receipts of the cargo put on board at Hongkong; there the cases were signed for as in bad order. Then there are the godown receipts, and they say that the cases were all oil stained. I think, then, that these facts, coupled with the offer of 10 per cent all round, and that plaintiff has received an allowance of from thirty to forty cents all round, and the fact that the so-called sound cases brought to Court have actually leaked while they have been here, puts the condition of the cases beyond all doubt. The question then for you first to consider is—Was that a reasonable performance of his contract? If you think it is not, then it will be your duty to find a verdict for the defendants. I think it would be convenient if you could answer that question at once, so please consider it.

MR. ROBINSON: I submit that this is a most irregular way of proceeding.

HIS LORDSHIP—I propose to put it to the Jury in this way; I see no objection to doing so, and it may be simpler for the Jury and myself.

MR. ROBINSON—I must ask you to note that I object to this course.

MR. WHEELLEY (who acted as spokesman for the Jury)—What is the question, my Lord?

HIS LORDSHIP—Whether the plaintiff has substantially complied with his contract in bringing to Shanghai and landing 12,000 cases of oil, in the condition I have described them to you?

MR. WHEELLEY (after the jury had deliberated a short time.)—We are all of one opinion, that he has not fulfilled his contract.

HIS LORDSHIP—That is, so far as quantity is concerned.

MR. WHEELLEY—Yes.

HIS LORDSHIP—The next objection the defendants have offered is, as to the quality of the goods. The law is thus stated in the case of *Jones v. Just*—"In every contract to supply goods of a specified description, which the buyer has no opportunity to inspect, the goods must not only, in fact, answer the specific description, but must also be saleable or merchantable under that description." The

question on this part of the case is thus one of degree, namely, were the goods in your judgment fairly and reasonably saleable as Devoe's Kerosine Oil? With regard to the oil itself, there has been no fault found; but the cases, as we have seen and heard, were in very bad order; and it is urged on behalf of the defendants that in this kind of goods the cases are an intrinsic part of the commodity, and that you cannot treat the oil as distinct and apart from the cases in which it is contained. In one of the authorities cited, the Judge said he could conceive cases where the state of the receptacle might justify the goods being rejected. But that evidently applies to exceptional or extreme cases. Of course some goods will sell as well in one kind of receptacle as another, but whether that is so with this kind of oil in this part of the world, you probably will know from your own experience. The witnesses have said that the cargo was not marketable, but they qualify it by saying that they could sell it at a reduction.

It is solely a question for you, as a Jury, to consider from what you have heard whether the oil was or was not fairly and reasonably marketable. I will read to you what was said in the Manila hemp case [Jones v. Just. L. R. 3 Q. B.—197.] The Judge in that case said:—"I think that the question is for the Jury, whether what was supplied under this contract was, when shipped at Singapore, such as to answer the description of *reasonably merchantable Manila hemp*, that being the warranty which, I think, the law implies in a contract to supply, as this is, though it would be different in a sale of specific things which the purchaser might examine, or of things sold by sample. And I think the question whether it is fairly and reasonably merchantable, is a question of more or less, which must be left to the Jury as reasonable men to determine." And that is how I shall leave the question of the quality of this oil to you. Do you, as reasonable men and men of business, say that this oil can be fairly and reasonably taken into the market and be sold as Devoe's Kerosine Oil? Then the third ground of objection, upon which the defendants say that this contract has not been sufficiently performed by the plaintiff, is as to the delivery, the time at which he, the plaintiff, should have delivered the oil. The contract says "that delivery should be one month after landing, buyer to have option of taking godown order, seller allows one month's discount." Now the landing commenced on the 27th November, and finished on the 4th December. Then I take it that at that time the defendants were at liberty to have the cargo if they chose. Now, "taking godown order" is a little ambiguous, but you can bring your own knowledge to bear on it, and if it is for me to form my view of it, I take it that the defendants were entitled, as soon as the cargo was landed, that is, on the 4th December, to have it if they chose. Defendants were in treaty at the time to ship cargo to Japan, cargo of the kind that was specially fitted for Japan, which this cargo was, being screw topped tins, and it may well be that they wanted this particular cargo to send to Japan. But at that time we know the cargo was not in a condition to be handed to them, because we have been told that the repairing and refilling went on until the 10th December. I have now placed before you the three objections made by the defendants to the manner in which the contract has been performed by the plaintiff. They say, first, you have not given us the proper quantity; next, you have not given us the proper quality; and, lastly, you have not fulfilled your contract in regard to the time you were to deliver the cargo. As to the proper quantity, if you take it as a question of the oil tendered, apart from the number of cases, there was a deficiency of 10 per cent. Now that is a deficiency which, so far as the evidence goes, is very largely in excess of the largest that has been known. One witness put it, I believe, as high as 5 per cent, and others said it was 1 and 2 per cent, but I think you will have little difficulty in concluding from the evidence that it averaged from 2 to 3 per cent, and in this case you have it at 10 per cent—tested by the quantity of oil.

Mr. ROBINSON.—It was not largely in excess of the *Star of the West* cargo.

HIS LORDSHIP.—In the *Star of the West* cargo there was only 5 per cent leakage, and in this case it amounts to 10 per cent. You have already found, gentlemen, as I understood, that plaintiff did not perform his contract as to quantity, looking at it from the question of the number of

cases and the condition in which the cases were in. I ought at the time to have asked you, putting the question of the cases aside, whether the amount of oil itself was sufficient to constitute a reasonable performance of the contract. If plaintiff was at liberty to refill the tins, then there was a percentage of ten per cent short, and the evidence shows that a reasonable percentage is from 2 to 3 per cent. The first question then you will have to answer is as to the quantity. You have already answered it as to the cases, and I will put it to you again with regard to the oil. You are first to consider whether plaintiff has substantially performed his contract as to the quantity as tested by the cases or the oil in them; secondly, as to the quality of the goods; and, lastly, as to the time of delivery. If you find on any one of these three points against the plaintiff, he is not entitled to recover.

In reply to the questions put to them by the judge the jury found. 1st. That the plaintiff had not substantially complied with the conditions of the contract, as to the quantity of the oil. 2nd. That the plaintiff had not substantially complied with the conditions of the contract as to the quality of the oil, the cargo being too far short of sound to be marketable. 3rd. The plaintiff had complied with his contract as regards time.

On these findings, judgment was given for the defendants.

IN H. B. M.'s COURT AT KANAGAWA.

Before H. S. WILKINSON ESQ. ACTING LAW SECRETARY.

REGINA (on prosecution of the *Imperial Japanese Customs*.)

JOHN HARTLEY.

Mr. Lowder for the Prosecution.

The Defendant appeared in person.

The defendant was charged on summons with smuggling or attempting to smuggle on the 8th day of January last into the port of Yokohama, twelve cetties of opium, not being medicinal opium and being prohibited goods. And also with having on the same day and at the same place landed from the British ship *Malacca* a case of goods containing gum, and twelve cetties of opium not being medicinal opium, without having been duly entered at the Japanese Custom House as provided in Regulation III of the Trade Regulations appended to the treaty between Great Britain and Japan of August 26th, 1859, and contrary to the stipulation in Regulation II of the said Regulations; and he was called upon to show cause why the said case containing 221 lbs. gum and 12 cetties of opium, the same not being medicinal opium, should not be confiscated.

It was proved that Mr. Hartley on the 8th of January, applied for a permit to land some goods, among which was a case numbered 251, said to contain gum: in this case were two tins, found to contain opium in powder. Samples taken from these two were submitted to Dr. Geerts, the analyst in charge of the laboratory to be analysed: and subsequently by order of the Court, samples from these two tins were analysed by Mr. North a druggist carrying on business at No. 61 Yokohama. The following is the result of their analyses.

Dr. Geerts, sworn, said:—I am a Dutch subject, and medical officer of the Dutch army, now residing at Yokohama. I remember receiving from Mr. Lowder two envelopes on the 29th of January. At the request of the Superintendent of Customs I analysed the contents of the envelopes, to ascertain the quantity of morphine. One only contained 4/10 per cent morphine. Besides, I found the opium had a very bad colour and very bad smell. The range of morphine in Turkish opium goes from 15 per cent to 7 or 6 per cent, but the average is considered above ten per cent when in a powdered state. Six per cent is the very lowest. The morphine contained in Indian opium is much less than in Turkish. The middle per centage of morphine in Indian opium is less than the middle quantity in Turkish opium. The per centage may vary from half per cent to six or seven per cent, which is the very highest. Some chemists say they have seen Indian opium without any morphine. Opium may be used as a medicine. Its essential and chief principle as a medicine is morphine. I have made myself acquainted with the different qualities of opium by the

Principal Pharmacopœia in Europe. By reference to them, I can ascertain whether opium is fit for a medicine, as the fitness of opium for medical use is from the quantity of opium it contains. The standard of morphine required to be in powdered opium by the British Pharmacopœia is not less than 8.33 per cent or $1\frac{1}{2}$ part of morphine. The French pharmacopœia requires from 10 to 11 per cent of morphine. The American 10 per cent. The German also 10 per cent. The Dutch 9 to 12 per cent.; and in Japan we have adopted from 9 to 12 per cent. The technical name of opium which requires the amount of morphine just mentioned is "official opium." Medicinal opium is the popular expression for "official opium." The opium in those envelopes certainly would not come under the name of official or medicinal opium. I cannot say positively where that opium is produced, but I believe, on the ground of the small percentage of morphine, and the colour, and the particular smell, which is different from Turkish opium, that it is Indian opium. But wherever it comes from, it is a very bad specimen of opium, which would cause it, in Europe, if found in an apothecary's shop by an Inspector, to be confiscated; and the apothecary would be punished. If this opium were administered to a patient it would have a different effect than intended.

To Mr. Hartley:—That is not medicinal opium. I did not put the two samples in the same vessel. I analyzed them myself. They were analyzed twice.

Mr. Hartley:—You are an officer of the Government?

Dr. Geerts:—Your Honour, I came here as an expert and to answer questions concerning the opium, and I do not wish to answer any others.

His Honour:—So far nothing has been asked you that is not relevant. I will see that you are not asked any improper question.

Witness:—It is quite possible that a medicine may stand on the limit of purity, that it may be called good by one laboratory and bad by another.

Dr. Geerts declined to answer another question put by Mr. Hartley, when His Honour explained to him that if he refused to answer, his evidence would have to be struck out. The witness did not see what the question had to do with the result at issue. However, he would waive his objections.

Further cross-examination failed to elicit anything material.

To His Honour:—The hundred grains of opium referred to in the British Pharmacopœia is crude opium. Chandon is a preparation made by the Chinese from opium imported from India. They heat the opium until they get a strong watery solution, which they filter, and which is then evaporated in a copper vessel until it becomes nearly dry. Then the extract is heated a little more, so that it is more or less roasted and has a peculiar smell. This is then called chandon or smoking opium. It is mostly Indian opium which is used for this purpose, though the Chinese use other opium. Indian opium is however preferred notwithstanding that it has a less percentage of morphine. The Indian opium is softer than Turkish opium. The quantity of morphine in opium does not render it more acceptable to the Chinese; in fact they prefer it to contain the lesser quantity of morphine. I can see no difference in the opium contained in those tins to the opium in the envelopes. I have been obliged to return opium as unfit for medical use, and I believe that all those parcels came from India. The appearance of that opium differs from Turkish opium, as the colour is different and the smell is not so agreeable, if opium may be said to have an agreeable smell. Every medical man would refuse to accept Indian opium for medicinal purposes. The balls of Indian opium are darker than Turkish opium.

Mr. John North, sworn, said:—I have made an analysis of the two samples of opium, which I took from those tins marked A and B. I found in sample A $1\frac{8}{10}$ per cent. of morphia; in sample B $4\frac{1}{10}$ of morphia. I did not look for foreign matter, as I only desired to discover the percentage of morphia. It was a hundred grains of opium I analysed from each tin, and I compared the samples taken from the Court with Smyrna opium as to colour only.

To Mr. Lowder:—I have made a very careful analysis of the opium; it took just a week to do it. The process I adopted was according to the British Pharmacopœia. I believe the result I have arrived at to be absolutely correct.

I would not like to say that the result I have obtained was necessarily more correct than the result obtained by Dr. Geerts. I have on one occasion applied to Dr. Geerts to analyse a sample of opium. I was already analysing a sample of the same opium at the time. Dr. Geerts' was $2\frac{4}{10}$ and mine was $1\frac{8}{10}$ of morphia. I trusted most in Dr. Geerts as he has better means of obtaining a correct analysis than myself, and more time too. Different processes of analysis may give different results, even of the same article. Therefore I am not prepared to say that my analysis is correct, and that Dr. Geerts' analysis is incorrect. Supposing the opium powder had been of a bad quality the impurities would not interfere with the test; the same bulk of pure opium would contain a large amount of impure, or rather more morphia would be found in a good sample of opium than in a bad sample—impurity cannot be applied to opium. I did not look for extraneous matter, though I noticed colouring matter in both samples, though there was more in sample A than in sample B. It would be the usual resinous extract; though if there had been any colouring left after my analysis it would have shown in the drying. Washing morphia with chloroform would destroy any impurities if they existed. I did not wash the morphia obtained by me with chloroform, but with ether. Morphia as it is usually made is of a light brown colour: but in its perfectly pure state it is white, but to get it to that colour it would have to go through three or four crystallizations, which would lessen the quantity. I am not acquainted with Jacobson's process of obtaining morphia. I qualified as an analytical chemist, but have no more diploma or certificate than is possessed by any other druggist and chemist. All druggists and chemists are not now authorized to make analyses, though they used to be at one time. A chemist may become an analytical chemist by passing an examination. I have not passed through such an examination. I have been eleven years in Japan.

Re-examined by Hartley:—I am not personally acquainted with any analysis of Dr. Geerts being incorrect. The process mentioned by the British Pharmacopœia extracts the colouring matter and narcotine. I do not know of any law forbidding me to analyse any article.

To the Court:—I cannot explain the difference between my analysis of sample A and Dr. Geerts' analysis. I made mine with the greatest of care. It would be impossible to reduce the $1\frac{8}{10}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ of morphia by extracting the impurities. By crystallizing and recrystallizing the $1\frac{8}{10}$ might be reduced in weight by $1\frac{1}{500}$ th part of a grain. The process of analysis in the British Pharmacopœia dissolves the morphia and leaves the other alkaloids undissolved. Chemically all analyses of opium should give the same result; but chemists differ in their opinions. By following one process more than another, I should not necessarily obtain a different quantity of morphia. I have not an elaborate laboratory, but I had all the necessary materials for conducting this analysis. It is not possible that any process of analysing would have found as much as six per cent of morphia from the sample from which I obtained $4\frac{1}{10}$. I do not conduct analyses frequently, as I have no time to attend to them. I have at times conducted analyses, and sometimes made mistakes like all other chemists are liable to. It is very seldom that two analyses turn out alike. Personally I cannot say that opium is introduced into Japan for the manufacture of morphia which is usually extracted from the lower kinds of opium. There might be such a manufactory without my knowing it. Laudanum is made from opium of good quality, the same as I should use in a crude form for medicine. One of the samples (B) I analyzed had a very nasty smell, and had not that agreeable flavour which Turkey opium has. Sample A was not so good as Turkey opium. I should know by the smell of B that it was not Turkish opium. Opium of bad quality has a dark colour, which is a fact generally known. Sample B is a fair colour, while sample A is bad; though B is not up to Turkey opium. I could not make laudanum from that opium. It might be possible to make it the same strength as official laudanum, though it would be a different preparation.

It was also shown that during the year 1877 there had been a great demand for opium among the Japanese druggists. Mr. Hartley also proved that the invoice cost of this opium which he had ordered from a first rate house in Calcutta was \$7.68 (£1.8.9½) per pound, while cost of Malwa opium was \$5 per pound.

On the 7th of April, the following judgment was delivered by Mr. Wilkinson.

After reading the charge against the accused, his honour said :—

The charge of smuggling and of attempting to smuggle is brought under the last paragraph of Regulation II appended to the Treaty between Great Britain and Japan of the 26th of August, 1858, and Section 84 of the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865. There was another charge of smuggling opium recently brought against the same defendant under the same paragraph of the Regulation, which was dismissed by this Court, on the ground that the opium which formed the subject of the charge was medicinal opium, and that the prohibition in the Regulation did not apply to medicinal opium. In this case, however, it is alleged that the opium which forms the subject of the charge is not medicinal opium, and I think that this allegation is fully borne out by the evidence. The proportion of morphia found in it is sufficient to determine that point. I find that no opium can properly be called medicinal opium unless it contains at least six per cent. of morphia, and the evidence of Dr. Geerts and of Mr. North, by both of whom the opium in question was analysed, shows that the proportion of morphia in it, falls far short of that standard. The difference between the result of the analysis made by Dr. Geerts and that of the analysis made by Mr. North is certainly startling. There can be no doubt whatever of the good faith and ability of both these gentlemen, and yet the opium which the former found to contain only fourth-tenths per cent. of morphia, was found by the latter to contain one and eight-tenths per cent., and another parcel which the former found to contain only two per cent., was found by the latter to contain four and one-tenth per cent. It is difficult to understand how such different results could be obtained. But it is not necessary to reconcile the difference, as I am satisfied that no analysis would show the opium in question to be up to the lowest standard necessary for medicinal opium.

But not only do I find that the opium in question is not medicinal opium, I find that it is smoking opium. The evidence of Dr. Geerts shows that the opium used in China for smoking is mostly Indian opium. The Chinese use other opium, but the opium which specially commends itself to them is Indian opium. The flavour of Indian opium which renders it less palatable as medicine, renders it all the more palatable for smoking, and the absence of morphia, which makes ordinary Indian opium useless as medicine, is no disadvantage for smoking; if it is not a distinct advantage. Now, not only is the opium in question Indian opium, I find that it has the characteristics which distinguish Indian opium from Turkey opium, and which commend it for smoking, and that there is a want in it of that characteristic which makes opium valuable as a medicine. In only one respect does it differ from the ordinary Indian opium of commerce, it has been reduced to powder. But that has failed to disguise it, and I think it is satisfactory to find that the characteristics of smoking opium are so pronounced as not to admit of being easily disguised.

I find then that the opium in question is the opium contemplated in the Regulation, and I find that it has been smuggled. The evidence is clear upon the latter point. No serious defence has been raised, and the defendant must pay the fine of \$15 a catty on all the opium in question, which I find to be eleven catties. The fine will therefore be \$165, and it must be paid forthwith.

It is enough for this case that the opium which forms the subject of the charge has been proved to be smoking opium, but it may be desirable to point out some of the general conclusions to which the evidence leads. I think from the evidence in this case we may be safe in laying down with very little reservation that Smyrna opium containing six per cent. of morphia or more, is certainly medicinal opium, and if, on the other hand, we cannot say positively that all Indian opium is smoking opium,—that there may not be a bare possibility of opium being grown in India with all the characteristics of the Smyrna opium which we find to be medicinal opium,—yet it has not been shown that there is any opium grown in India which has all those characteristics, and in the absence of the most positive evidence as to the coincidence of the characteristics of any particular parcel of opium, with those of Smyrna opium, the fact that it is Indian opium

will be sufficient to justify its condemnation as smoking opium.

Evidence has been given as to other sorts of opium, but it will be time enough to deal with them when the occasion arises.

As to the claim to have the case and its contents confiscated, I am of opinion that it cannot be sustained. It is founded upon the third paragraph of Regulation II and the first paragraph of Regulation III. The first mentioned paragraph provides :—

“Any goods that shall be discharged or attempted to be discharged from any ship without having been duly entered at the custom House as hereinafter provided, shall be liable to seizure and confiscation.”

The provision here referred to, which is contained in the last mentioned paragraph, is as follows :—

“The owner or consignee of any goods who desires to land them, shall make an entry of the same at the Japanese Custom House. The entry shall be in writing, and shall set forth the name of the person making the entry, and the name of the ship in which the goods were imported, and the marks, numbers, packages and the contents thereof, with the value of each package extended separately in one amount, and at the bottom of the entry shall be placed the aggregate value of all the goods contained in the entry. On each entry, the owner or consignee shall certify in writing that the entry then presented exhibits the actual cost of the goods, and that nothing has been concealed whereby the Customs of Japan would be defrauded, and the owner or consignee shall sign his name to such certificate.”

It is admitted that the gum now sought to be confiscated and the case containing it were entered at the Custom House in accordance with the Regulation, with this exception, that the whole of the contents of the case were not set out, and the total value of the contents of the case was wrongly stated. The quantity and value of the gum was rightly stated, but it is contended that in accordance with the Regulation the quantity and value of the opium ought also to have been set out, and that, inasmuch as the quantity and value of the opium in it was not set out, the case and all its contents are liable to be confiscated. But I am of opinion that the paragraph which provides for the confiscation of goods unless they were duly entered contemplates only goods which were capable of being duly entered. As all the goods which were capable of being duly entered were so entered, there can be no confiscation under this provision. If there were a provision concerning goods intended for importation such as there is, in the seventh paragraph of Regulation III, for goods intended for exportation, there could be no difficulty in the matter; for it is expressly provided with regard to these goods that “all packages which contain prohibited articles shall be forfeited to the Japanese Government.” But there is no such distinct provision with regard to goods imported, and there is no other provision under which the package as a whole can be confiscated. Mr. Lowder very rightly admits that it is not subject to the 4th paragraph of Regulation II which provides that.

“Packages made up with intent to defraud the revenue of Japan, by concealing therein articles of value which are not set forth in the invoice, shall be forfeited;”

for, the opium being absolutely prohibited, there was no fraud on the revenue. The defendant is therefore entitled to have the case and the gum delivered up to him.

With regard to the confiscation of the opium, the only provision applying to it is the first clause of paragraph 8 of Regulation II.

“The importation of opium being prohibited, any British vessel coming to Japan for the purposes of trade, and having more than three catties weight of opium on board, the surplus quantity may be seized and destroyed by the Japanese authorities.”

This opium came in one vessel, and, with the exception of three catties, the Japanese Government is entitled to have it destroyed. With regard to the three catties I cannot help expressing my regret that for a case such as the present no provision has been made for its confiscation. But, as I read the Regulations, there is none, and the defendant will consequently be at liberty to re-export it. The order, therefore will be that all the opium in question, with the exception of three catties weight thereof, shall be destroyed by and in the presence of such officers as the Superintendent of Customs shall appoint; and that as to the said three catties weight, the same shall be held by the Japanese Customs until the defendant shall give proper security to the Superintendent for the re-exportation of the same.

stead of appearing, from the back of the bench, like a 'Jack in the Box.' And essentially and utterly wrong, was his delivery of his solo from the footlights, instead of his proper seat. We may be told that he could not make his voice tell from the back of the stage: we reply, that a canopy, or a sounding board, or a ceiling to the scene, might have been used as aids to his vocalization (and we are surprised that one of these obvious expedients did not suggest itself to the stage-manager.) But we have also to tell Mr. Pearson that, for the delivery of a solo, obviously a plagiarism on the 'Ratcatcher's Daughter,' and with no music in it whatever,—nothing but patter and pantomime, it was utterly indifferent to the audience whether they heard his voice or not; and that his admirably comic by-play and splendid mobility of feature would have told with far more effect from the Bench than they did from the front of our small stage. But Mr. Pearson has done so much for the entertainment of Yokohama during his residence amongst us, that we can easily forgive one *fiasco*, and as a veteran actor, he will appreciate the value of our criticism, and doubtless, on some other occasion, turn it to account.

Our best acknowledgments are due to the Conductor, who magnanimously refused to accept any remuneration for the great amount of valuable time given by him to the preparation of this piece. He is a true artist; witness the instance of rare self-abnegation which he displayed last night.—at one moment we find him playing that most thankless instrument, the Contra-bass, in a set of waltzes, the next, taking his place as Musical Director. We commend his example to those amateurs who are too great for their parts and who imagine themselves competent to change a composer's ideas to suit their own private ends. Our hearty thanks are also due to Dr. Goertz, who obligingly stepped in at the last moment to help fill the gap caused by the absence of the Band. And especially, in conclusion, to Capt. Bridgford the stage-manager, who has lent the aid of his very large experience in such matters to the drilling of so large a company. Its effective display on so very small a stage is the best proof of his ability, and the success of the piece being due in so great measure to his firm management, tact, and knowledge of stage-business, to him is due a large share of our applause.

(Owing to an accident in our office, this number of the *Japan Times* is not published until to-day, Monday April 15th.)

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XV. FOREBODINGS.

"It cannot be, Bansaku," said the Minister, when the Comptroller had reported the result of his visit to Ishikawa. "There is no precedent for such an extraordinary appointment. Even if the Emperor's consent were obtained, the nobles would surely consider themselves insulted."

"Pardon me, your Excellency," the comptroller answered, "if I say that these scruples seem a little inconsistent with the design we have in hand. When your Excellency's voice is absolute in the empire, who is he that will dare to criticise the rewards you bestow on your servants? Will it not suffice that you have found merit warranting such favour? Moreover, your Excellency may be assured that those who know Ishikawa Goyemon will easily reconcile themselves to his promotion, however high it raise him, and should any demur," added Bansaku with a significant smile, "Goyemon will find means to persuade them without appealing over much to your Excellency's patronage. A little thing can turn the arrow from its mark, and many a great result has been jeopardized by too close a scrutiny of process. Would to heaven there were nothing more deterrent in the details of our enterprise than this condition!"

"You are right, Bansaku, and henceforth I place the conduct of this business entirely in your hands. I hope that my power will one day reach as far as my gratitude desires," said Hidetsugu, acquiescing gladly in the passive rôle his servant's zeal assigned him, and not uninfluenced by the reflection that, his purpose once attained, the destruction of the tools he had employed would be no less possible than prudent. Could he have seen into Bansaku's heart, his contentment might have been a little disturbed, but he was too indolent to analyse the motives that had transformed the comptroller's reluctance not merely into assent, but assiduity.

The truth was, that Bansaku's conception of a vassal's duty comprehended much more than the common creed of his contemporaries, which taught that faithful counsels thrice re-

jected solve the bonds of service. They offer, he held, an example of selfishness rather than devotion who, seeing their influence powerless to avert evil, abandon their posts, and by a self-inflicted exile or death protest against what they cannot prevent, for since the ties of true fealty are indissoluble, a vassal is only faithful when he is prepared to embrace the policy he has failed to modify, and share to the bitter end the disasters and disgrace of his master. Yet one solace this chivalrous man had reserved in secret for himself: it was his fixed purpose, after he should have achieved Hidetsugu's behest, to follow Taiko at once to the grave, and in the realm of the shades solicit his old master's forgiveness. This was all the reparation he could offer, and being all, would, he believed be sufficient; for the consciousness that he himself would freely pardon any evil suffered at the hands of one similarly constrained, made him quietly confident of finding no less magnanimity in his neighbours.

Having received the Minister's consent, Bansaku at once conducted Ishikawa to the palace and into his master's presence.

Hidetsugu was seated on an elevated dais in the foreground of a fair receding vista of exquisitely pictured arras and damask canopies. As a mark of special condescension, the curtain that served to conceal him from the gaze of inferiors on ordinary occasions, was raised sufficiently to show his features, than which none handsomer or more dignified might be found in those days among the rulers of Japan. Goyemon, impassive and disdainful as his habits had made him, could scarcely conceal his astonishment at the magnificence of everything he saw around him, and for the first time in his life perhaps, bowed his head with a feeling of genuine submission.

"Ishikawa Goyemon," said the Minister, "at my comptroller's recommendation I have decided to admit you to my service. It gratifies me to see your zeal in my behalf."

Goyemon smiled in his heart at this form of salutation. Nevertheless, abating nothing of his humble deportment, he replied with becoming obeisance:—"Your Excellency's condescension and the most unmerited honour of this interview, overwhelm me with gratitude and reverence."

"Your petition," resumed Hidetsugu, "has been made known to me, and has obtained my sanction. You shall presently receive the insignia of the office you desire. Meanwhile Bansaku will furnish you with the details of the duty required of you."

At a sign from the Minister, the chamberlains and other officers present then withdrew, and Bansaku, coming close to Goyemon, said:—"There is in the castle at Fushimi a piece of porcelain known as the Lapwing-censer. It originally belonged to the Chinese Emperor, Taisho, but afterwards, coming into the possession of the Imagawa family, was presented by Ujizane to Ota Nobunaga, and at his decease fell into the Regent's hands. In addition to its extraordinary beauty, it is endowed with certain miraculous properties which render it one of the most curious and valuable specimens of art in the kingdom. My master has long wished for this censer, but the Regent refuses to give it to him, for no better reason than an alleged fear that it might pass into the possession of some lady of His Excellency's household. Inconsiderate as this plea is, my master would be content with it, had he not openly mentioned his intention of asking for the censer, so that he is now constrained to suffer a public slight, or take other means of obtaining what he desires. I myself would willingly undertake the duty of abstracting the censer from the castle, but the Regent keeps it always beside him, and if anyone approaches his couch after night-fall, the Lapwing immediately gives the alarm. I have heard you say that your art includes a secret available in such cases. If this be so, and if you will make the attempt, I promise you in His Excellency's name that so soon as you deliver the censer into our hands, the office you aspire to shall be yours."

Goyemon, too astute to analyze reasons that did not concern him, was careful to receive this statement with every appearance of good faith. "I do indeed possess a secret, Sir Bansaku," he said, which would enable me to execute His Excellency's commands, did I not unfortunately lack the one article upon which success depends, and I fear that even the palace resources will be unable to supply it. I myself have sought it for many a year, but hitherto without any result."

Bansaku laughed ironically at this speech. "It must be something rarer than even the Lapwing-censer, Goyemon, if the Prime Minister's hand cannot reach it. I think you may dismiss all doubts upon that score."

"Nevertheless I am still incredulous," answered Goyemon. "It is very well known that all the crimson brocade in Japan might be measured by inches, and when I tell you that I need a sufficient quantity to wrap completely round the censor, you will, I think, admit the formidable nature of this difficulty. However, if it be overcome, I promise you that the Lapwing will suffer itself to be carried out of the castle without a single cry."

"Your method sounds strange," said Hidetsugu, "but none the less admirable if it be efficacious."

"Your Excellency" replied Ishikawa, "it is the one secret of my art that neither reward nor affection has ever induced me to divulge. As for my belief in its efficacy, I can offer no better proof than the risk of my life, certainly forfeit if I fail. And to this," he continued solemnly, "I add an oath that no torture cruelty can devise shall wring from me a confession of the commands I obey."

These words were uttered with an air of noble confidence that showed they were no idle boast, and Hidetsugu, looking admiringly at the speaker's stalwart frame and fearless eye, felt his cause doubly strong in the hands of such an ally. Rising, he left the room, and returned presently, carrying with his own hands a small ebony chest, gold-clasped and carved into clusters of flowers and groups of birds. From this he drew an article that well merited Ishikawa's start of astonishment and delight, for it was nothing less than a tabard, formed of a single piece of brocade, and bearing on the back and skirts an ample figure of the sovereign* of the three hundred and sixty birds, exquisitely embroidered in gold thread. The sunbeams, recognizing a kindred beauty in this rich fabrication, seemed to cling about it and caress it as it emerged from its case, till each of its folds glowed and sparkled with an almost dazzling brilliancy. Hidetsugu handed it to Goyemon, who received it with reverent admiration, but Bansaku shuddered and turned away his head, for in the mystic bird's golden plumage shining out from its deep crimson environment, he discovered an emblem of the bloody setting that surrounded the diadem his master sought.

"Goyemon," said the Minister, "if crimson brocade possess any such virtue as you describe, that tabard cannot fail to serve your purpose, for it belonged once to the Emperor himself, and has covered the armours of no less rulers than Nobunaga and Taiko."

"Your Excellency," answered Goyemon, "the ruler it will now help to establish is not less than any it has hitherto served."

The Minister started at these words, for they showed that Ishikawa had penetrated his real design, but Bansaku observing his master's discomposure, hastened to suggest a new topic.

"Now that you are provided with what you need for the achievement of your purpose, Ishikawa," he said, "it only remains to consider the preliminaries, and of these the passage of the castle gates is, I suppose, the most important. Do you desire a permit from his Excellency, or how do you propose to act?"

"I desire nothing but His Excellency's confidence, Sir Bansaku," replied Goyemon. "The more thoroughly you entrust to me the details of execution, the more entirely unshared will be the responsibility."

"Nevertheless you will allow me to ask you one question," persisted the comptroller. "What course do you intend to follow in the event of failure?"

"In the event of failure," answered Ishikawa, "I propose to assume the character of a robber, and I promise you," he added with a smile of which subsequent events interpreted

* The Hocho, commonly translated "phoenix," but possessing no attribute in common with the latter, except immortality. It is fabled to have originally appeared thousands of years ago, on a mountain called Taketsu, in China, during the reign of the just emperor Fukugiehi, but when, or how often, mortal eyes have since beheld it, history does not tell. Universal peace and morality are the only conditions of life it visits, and at its advent, the 360 tribes of birds are said to follow it wherever it flies. Its form is emblematic of all that is beautiful and good. In the plumage of its wings five colours shine, and its voice is attuned to the five royal instruments (kin-sho-kaku-chi-u). It roosts only in the "Kiri" tree, eats only the sweet fruit of the "Princess Bamboo," and drinks only the purest spring-water. Its head represents virtue, its wings, docility, its back, justice, its belly, truth, and its breast, mercy. As for its form, it is said to be six feet in height, and to have the head of a fowl, the throat of a swallow, the neck of a snake, the body of the Kwocho (eagle?) and the tail of a fish, but this description does not altogether accord with the popular delineations of the bird so often seen on bronzes and porcelain.

F. B.

the import, "I promise you that I shall act the part with a tolerable semblance of reality."

It wanted still some hours of evening when Goyemon returned to his house. The enterprise he was about to undertake differed so little from many another of its successfully achieved predecessors that the arrangement of his plans cost him but very trifling consideration. A map of the Regent's castle; a pair of swords—one almost laughably long and heavy—a grapple, so constructed that its arms when released from the embrace of an iron ring, collapsed and fell together into a single-limbed hook; a long rope, slender, but hiding immense strength among its carefully plaited silk strands; a flint and steel; a black crape hood, and a huge straw hat covered with oil-paper: these constituting all the necessary accessories, their collection and examination was a matter of very brief effort.

Satisfied that nothing was lacking, Goyemon now summoned all his imagination and forethought to assist at a performance which he regarded as an essential prelude to successful enterprise, and which, in consequence, he never willingly neglected, though in truth little of the intense earnestness necessary to guarantee this proceeding against inadequacy and inutility was suggested by its method. For his habit was simply to exclude every ray of light from his room, and abandon himself to a reverie, more or less protracted according to the nature of the undertaking he contemplated; a reverie having for its object a mental rehearsal of the scene in which he was about to take a leading, or it might be, an unaided part. His great experience, added to a carefully cultivated power of forecasting the various combinations of accident and arrangement peculiar to the enterprises he pursued, imparted such a fecundity and precision to these pre-fatory conceptions, that they generally included some phase identical with the reality, and hence it resulted that imperfections due to surprise or improvidence scarcely ever disfigured his attempts.

It seemed scarcely credible that a nature in which no crisis discovered a symptom of hesitation, nor any danger, however imminent, developed a tremor of panic, should surrender itself to this tedious, nay almost timid analysis of possibility and contingency, but in truth Goyemon's whole career was guided by a desire to conciliate reputation, and though the prospect of personal peril excited in him no feeling but disdain, the fear of failure and consequent humiliation was intolerable. Never before, too, had such immense results depended on success; results which, though they were but the embodiment of a very old and very familiar ambition, seemed altogether strange and fabulous, now that they were within reach, and whether from this cause, or because the phantom of fate often crosses and troubles man's mental vision long before the catastrophe it foreshadows, his mind refused any longer to undergo the discipline of calculation hitherto so easy. It was in vain that one by one he gathered the threads of possibility and probability, and wove them into the fabric of execution, unravelling the entanglements of hazard and the knots of mischance with more than his wonted patience and care, for always when the pattern he sought to produce was approaching completion, the clew seemed to slip from his fingers, and the whole texture fell into hopeless and contemptible confusion.

At last he abandoned the attempt almost angrily, and throwing open the windows, looked out across the city towards the path of the declining sun. As he cast up the moments that separated him from the achievement of his purpose, he began to be gradually conscious of a closer relationship between himself and the life around him, a new bond of fellowship, linking him to the world he had so outraged. In this he at first unhesitatingly recognized an omen of fortunate return to the fellowship of honest men, and in the delirium of anticipation he whispered to himself fond assurances of success and unduly trivial estimates of the enterprise he had undertaken, often referring for confirmation to the tabard he held in his hand, and proudly likening his own future to the golden phoenix whose plumage glittered with a constant sheen among the shifting tints of the brocade. But he held this faith by such a frail tenure, that despite his stoutest struggles, it gradually drifted farther and farther away, and the place it left was occupied by undefined doubts and unwonted misgiving. For the very song of the ring-dove in the cedars and the whisper of the breezes among the cypress tops seemed to change, as he listened, from chants of joy into mocking echoes cast faintly back by the departing voice of happiness, and even while he gazed with new-born

affection at the tender beauties of nature, the hand of fate appeared to rise up slowly but inexorably, and draw across her fair features a cold shroud, behind which the softness of their living grace changed to the set rigidity of death before decay.

But seldom, very seldom, does instinct rightly interpret the import of that secret sympathy, that unutterable yearning by which the heart, when the sum of its pulsations is nearly told, finds itself drawn towards objects that never before possessed any power to calm or quicken its throbs, and least of all did it occur to this iron-minded man that our deep affection for the beauties among which we are born, can be stirred into the most sensitive prescience by the approach of separation and loss.

Shaking off, not without some effort indeed, the weakness that had surprised him into rapt admiration of a prospect until now little lovely, he became aware that he was no longer alone. A girl knelt beside him, timidly and with tearful eyes watching his unwonted mood. Her beauty, refined almost to frailty, was so delicately perfect that she seemed a blossom destined by nature to inhabit a world of unbroken rest; a world where no rain falls, but only dew, and flower-petals drop through the everlasting calm of the atmosphere at the very feet of the plants that nurture them. Nothing more incongruous could well be conceived than the association of such a woman with such a man; but wayward love, that delights in uniting nature's contrasts, or perhaps some provident attraction devised by nature herself to temper her own excesses, had gathered all the springs of this fragile girl's being into a deep, fathomless current of affection for the gallant, debonnaire gentleman she saw in her suitor;—and faith, a woman's faith, the most divine attribute of humanity, had consecrated her life to the reformation of the unscrupulous brigand she had found in her husband.

And whatever crimes be laid to Goyemon's charge, it must at least be admitted that he never slighted or despised the devotion of his beautiful wife. He was incapable of fully reciprocating, perhaps even of appreciating, the intensity of tenderness that glows in such a woman's pure heart, but he gave in return all that was possible to him, a strong, passionate love. And with this she was content, nay at the last supremely happy, for her gentle influence, feeble but never fainting, had drawn him slowly back from the paths of evil, until in fine he had abandoned them altogether, and retired with her to the secluded retreat where the Prime Minister's agent found him. It is very possible that the great wealth he had accumulated helped this result not a little, for in abandoning his vices he still preserved his ambition. Not, indeed, an ambition such as policy had induced him to describe to Bansaku, but one that aimed at rank and dignity for his wife's and his child's sakes no less than his own. And this ambition was now about to be satisfied. One last enterprise, easier, incomparably easier than almost any of those he had already conducted to successful issues, would bring within reach the prize he sought, and enable him to make some reparation for the years of anguish and solicitude he so often regretted to have caused the faithful girl now kneeling at his side. This was the thought that brightened his gaze as it fell upon her face, and she, responsive to his least change of feeling, smiled at him for a moment through her tears. But only for a moment, for the next, throwing herself on the ground and clinging to his knees, she burst into a storm of passionate weeping.

It may be that even as the feather-grasses tremble long before the storm comes, to rend the pine that shelters them, so the exquisitely sensitive chords of a woman's heart are sometimes stirred into prophetic vibrations, by the breath of misfortune approaching the object of her love. It may or it may not be so. All the accumulated wisdom of unhappiness fails to teach us whether such things are strange truths or superstitious fables, but certain it is that life will have lapsed very far into the twilight of time, ere it ceases to afford such instances of prescient sadness.

Goyemon asked no question, as he raised his wife and held her in his arms. He knew that she loved him too well not to have penetrated his design, and moreover, little as it had ever been her habit to trouble him with tears or complaints, her sorrow, from some inexplicable reason, seemed at that moment the most fitting mood she could have assumed.

"Chiyo," he said presently in a soothing tone:—"it is the last, the very last time, and the reward of success will restore my family to more than the dignity my ancestors forfeited. Would you have me hesitate?"

But experience had taught her that his resolutions once taken, it was idle to combat them. Without heeding his question therefore, she entreated him to describe the nature of the enterprise he was about to undertake. He did so briefly, but with sufficient accuracy to show that his projects included nothing extraordinary: carefully, however, avoiding all mention of the Minister's name. "And now, Chiyo," he added, "let me not carry with me anything so unmanly as the memory of your tears. You have always been brave in times of danger, and why should you give way now when there is no cause?"

"Goyemon," she said suddenly, raising her head and gazing at him beseechingly, "you are strong. You have never failed, and yet you doubt. Tell me, for you must know, shall we ever meet again?"

Goyemon was less troubled by this question than by the look that accompanied it, for the girl's whole soul seemed to have been absorbed into that gaze of agonized earnestness, and before he could turn away his eyes, he felt that she had discovered in his heart something of which he was himself but vaguely conscious. Nevertheless he answered stoutly:—"Most certainly we shall meet again. Everything points to success. There are no treacheries of agents or mistakes of assistants to fear in this matter, and surely his own inexperience is little likely to overthrow Ishikawa Goyemon!"

This was not said boastfully, but with a simple confidence that seemed only natural in such a man. Chiyo however did not appear at all reassured.

"Often," she said, "as you have left me with the certainty that you were about to encounter some deadly peril, I have never felt as I do to-day. The whole world, even you yourself, seem to have been suddenly separated from me by an immense interval I can never, never hope to pass, and such an utter loneliness has fallen on me that I could almost wish to die, were it only possible to be with you still after death."

"Pshaw! Chiyo," replied Goyemon, feigning an impatience he did not feel, "if a few months' rest could make me as rusty as it has rendered you timid, there might well be cause for your forebodings. Shake off your nervousness, girl, and set about your preparations, for I wish to be sure that you have reached your uncle's safely before I set out."

It was Ishikawa's habit, when about to engage in any enterprise, to send his son and Chiyo to the house of her uncle, an old priest who lived in the precincts of a little temple beyond the reach of the city's tumult. This course was dictated by a terrible necessity, for the inexorable law of those days generally included their wives and children in the punishments of great malefactors. On this occasion Chiyo had well nigh solicited her husband's permission to remain with him to the last, but she bravely refrained from doing so, reflecting that if by any chance the aspect of her misgiving awoke a corresponding weakness in Goyemon's breast, she would ill have acted the part of a true wife. With a resolution, therefore, that seemed scarcely possible in one so soft and fragile, she repressed the cruel pangs of her misery, and disposed herself to make ready for her departure, busily if not cheerfully. She would fain have protracted her preparations, and did actually, though almost unconsciously, devise not a few expedients to defer the moment of parting, but Goyemon had grown strangely anxious to hasten it. Was it that he mistrusted his own power to look any longer unmoved into those sweet eyes, childlike in their purity, godlike in their deep tenderness, or was it that the fever in his blood made him intolerant of all delay, and impatient to face danger, death, or anything that signified action? Who can say, since the man himself could not? Only when he took into his arms his sleeping son—a lusty lad, some three year old—did he seem to remember that this separation might be longer than life, for he held the child many moments after Chiyo had entered her palanquin, and when at last he placed it on her knee, he bent over her, and whispered in voice broken by emotion—if indeed such a thing were possible in Ishikawa Goyemon—"Chiyo, should you not hear from me by noon to-morrow, set out at once for Osaka, and do not return to Kiyoto while Taiko lives. Forget, if you can, that you ever knew me as I am, and remember only what I have tried to be for your sake. And, Chiyo," he added, signing to the bearers to raise the palanquin, for, with all her brave resolution, it seemed as though the trembling girl must, in another moment, fall into his arms and hide her face of convulsive anguish, "if you should care to observe my last request, bring up my son so that he may never know his father's name."

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPAN TIMES,

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

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CONTENTS OF No. 15. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. APRIL 13TH, 1878

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Tea (with a Report of the American Tea-trade of 1877.) The Courts.
'Ruined Rivers' and Dutch Engineers. (a Letter and a Reply.)

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Performance in aid of the China Famine Fund.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY, Capt. R.A.
Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 15. Forebodings.

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POSTAL NOTICES.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial
Japanese Post Office on the 9th day of April, 1878 :—

Andosing, J.	Lord Wm. D.
Andow, K.	Mariotti, Madame C.
Armstrong, H. B.	Marseille, 2.
Barucca, P.	McLean, Miss M.
Cannon, W. S.	Meldrum, Thos. T. A.
Casley, W. J. B.	Mondosjee, E.
Church, H. & Co.	Murazaki, M.
Clark, Saml. J.	Nakanawa, Tokio.
Comstock, H. & Co.	Nelson, Miss M.
Crizuka, S.	Noble, Edwin 2
Dauvergue, H.	Osima, K., Tokio.
Davison, J. & Co.	Patterson, C. H., 2.
Dobbins, Rev. F. S.	Phillips, C. L.
Druse, J.	Qwon Ki Chin.
Ducet, —	Reid, David.
Dunn, Hy. J.	Roach, Wm.
Flancois, V.	Rosner, J.
Fukushima, Tokio.	Savio, P.
Greece, Consul of.	Shields, A.
Grennell, Hy. W.	Smith, —
Hayes, F. C., Tokio.	Stentz, Harvey & Co.
Hayes, Vinnie.	Tihay, J. Tokio
Japan Patient Office.	Vernier, L.
Jones, P. L.	Williams, G. B.
Kaschoi & Co., Tokio.	Wilson, J.
Liebers, B.	

SHIPS.

Ship "Coriolanus," 3.	Barque "Laira."
" "City of Poonah."	" "Nagasaki Maru."
" "Newman Hall."	" "Ribston."
Barque "Alice."	" "Samantha."
" "Areola."	" "Scawfell."
" "Hayden."	Brig. "Supreme."

L. T. FARR,
Acting Superintendent.

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, April 9th, 1878.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12th, 1878.

IMPORTS:—The speculative demand for yarns, which has been the principal characteristic feature of our import market, has for the present ceased, in the face, too, of an improvement in the value of native currency. We are of opinion, therefore, that the demand has been legitimate, resulting partly from exhaustion of stocks, and partly from the opening of new markets, a sequence of the influx of commissariat money into Kiushiu during the civil war of last year. Precisely the same sudden and apparently speculative demand for Manchester goods was manifested in India, the year after the Mutiny, when three columns of British troops had sown silver broadcast over the country. One of the great Bombay houses, in which the present writer was then a clerk, remitted, for ten or twelve mails running, an average of £120,000 per steamer, chiefly for sales to arrive. Goods were sold that had not been even made and a good part of the next year was occupied in Indian book-keepers' offices in adjusting differences in cargoes and deliveries. If *kinsatsu* continue to improve in value, as there is every prospect of their doing, and if the Japanese merchants have not over-estimated the country demand, we may expect to see the goods contracted for rapidly taken delivery of, and our year's trade will open brilliantly and soundly, with profits all round—the only satisfactory basis of trade.

There appears to be nothing doing in the Import market generally worthy of more special notice than is given in our next page of quotations and remarks. Except that we have to record a sale of 10,000 cases of Kerosine oil at a considerable fall from our last-quoted prices, and that Sugar has risen considerably, and the market is more than firm at quotations. Stocks are short with little supply coming on, and holders ask higher rates than those we quote. Metals and other sundries are dull, and prices nominal.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** During the last week, our silk market has taken rather a better turn. The news from home having been a little more encouraging, several firms have made purchases. In all, about 500 native bales have been brought into buyers' godowns and probably much of this will be settled.

It is daily becoming more and more difficult to obtain good silk. Stocks amount to only about 1,500 bales, and much of this considerably mixed. Export to date is 20,557 bales. Prices are, nominally, \$10 to \$20 higher than when we last reported them, but as we had purposely quoted them rather full, as holders were then firm we may now leave them unchanged, with the remark that at these prices there are now buyers, whereas, before, there were none. An interesting note on the subject of the sale of the silk-worms' eggs exported on native account will be found in the next number of this Review.

TEA:—Quotations remain entirely nominal, and operations for the closing week do not exceed twenty piculs. In fact, we might report as we have done, for two or three weeks past, that the market is entirely closed. In our next issue, we hope to give our readers some slight ideas of the prospects of the coming crop.

EXCHANGE:—Transactions in Exchange during the past week have been on a very moderate scale and business has been done without change in rates; the market closes however with a higher tendency.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d @ 4s. 0d. sight 3s. 11d., Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. @ 4s. 0½d. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 5.00 sight 4.90. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.07½. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 73½. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 1½ o/o disc. Private, 10 days' sight 2 o/o disc. San Francisco Bank sight 94½. New York Bank, sight 94½. **BULLION.** Gold Yen 392, Kinsatsu 431.

IMPORTS.	Prices.	Reported Sales.	REMARKS.
Cotton Yarn—			
Nos. 16 to 24 per picul	\$30.00 to 32.00	460 Bales	Fair sales on the spot and to arrive.
ditto Reverse "	34.00 " —		
28 to 32 "	32.50 " 34.40		Small demand.
38 to 42 "	36.00 " 38.00		Little enquiry.
(Bombay) No. 20 "	29.00 " 29.25		Demand fallen off.
" No. 18 "	nominal		
Cotton Piece Goods—			
Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	nominal	3,250 pieces	No enquiry.
" " 8.4... .. "	1.95 to 2.15	5,550 "	Small enquiry exists for inferior quality.
" " 9 lbs., 45 in. ... "	2.22½ " 2.42½	500 "	Small sales.
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. "	nominal		
" " 7.0 lbs. "	1.60 to —		
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. "	nominal		
Wh. Shtgs. 60 to 64 reed 40 yds. 35 in. "	"		Dull of sale.
Indigo Shirtings 12 yds. by 44 in. "	"		
Turkey Red Cambrics 2¼ to 2½ lbs. "	1.75 to 1.85	1,000 "	
" " 3.0 lbs. "	nominal		
Black Velvets "	7.50 to —	1,830 "	
Taffachelass (single warp) ... "	1.75 " 1.85		Nothing doing.
" (double warp) "	1.90 " 2.00		
Chintzes (assorted) "	1.85 " 2.35	400 "	Little more business.
Victoria Lawns "	0.81½ " —	4,600 "	Nominal.
Cotton Italians (cold'd) per yard	nominal	660 "	
" " (blk.) "	0.12 to —		
Woollens and Worsteds—			
Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards ... per piece	5.50 " 7.25		Neglected.
Mousselines de Laine 24to30yds. by 31 in.			
Plain per yard	0.17½ " 0.17½	1,010 "	
Striped "	0.20 " 0.20½		
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	4.50 " 4.75		No sales.
Cloth (Woollen) per yard	1.20 " 1.80		
" Union (64 in.) "	0.65 " 1.00		
Blankets 6lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lb.	0.40 " 0.41½		
" 7 " to 8 " " "	0.37½ " —	500 pairs	
Metals, &c.—			
Iron, Nail Rod—large per picul	2.60 " 2.90		
" " small "	3.00 " 3.30		Market quiet—no sales exported.
" Bars, flat and round ... "	2.60 " 3.25		
" Pig "	1.50 " 1.80		
Lead "	7.00 " 7.20		Nominal.
Tin Plates "	6.00 " 6.25		Do.
Window Glass per box	2.90 " 3.10		Do.
Kerosine Oil per case	3.00 " 3.05		Sales of 10,000 cases at quotations.
Quicksilver nominal.	63.90 nominal.		Nominal.
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 to —		
" Welsh "	11.50 " 12.00		
" Australian... .. "	9.00 " 9.50		
China and Straits Produce—			
Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.00 " 16.25		
Formosa Sugar, Takao "	5.40 " 5.50		Market very firm and higher.
" " Taiwan "	5.20 " 5.40		Prices demanded.
" " White "	nominal		
Saigon Rice "	"		

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2 ... per pcl.	\$550 to 570 per pcl.	19s. 7d. to 20s. 3d.	54.60 fr. to 56.40 fr.		
" No. 2	525 to 540 "	18s. 10d. to 19s. 3d.	52.30 fr. to 53.70 fr.		
" No. 2½ (good medium) ...	490 to 510 "	17s. 7d. to 18s. 3d.	49.00 fr. to 50.90 fr.		
" No. 3 (medium)	475 to 490 "	17s. 1d. to 17s. 3d.	47.50 fr. to 48.10 fr.		1000 to 1500 bales
" Inferior	460 to 470 "	16s. 7d. to 16s. 10d.	46.25 fr. to 47.20 fr.		
Oshio No. 1 and 2	500 to 530 "	17s. 11d. to 18s. 11d.	50.00 fr. to 52.75 fr.		
" No. 1, 2 and 3	480 to 490 "	17s. 8d. to 17s. 7d.	48.10 fr. to 49.00 fr.		
Hamaaki No. 1, 2 and 3... ..	460 to 470 "	16s. 7d. to 16s. 10d.	46.25 fr. to 47.20 fr.		
Tea:—					
Common per pcl.	10.00 to 12.00 "	} Quotations given are the prices at which the market has closed for the season.			} nominal.
Good Common... ..	13.00 to 15.00 "				
Medium	16.00 to 17.00 "				
Good Medium	18.00 to 20.00 "				
Fine	22.00 to 26.00 "				
Finest	27.00 to 31.00 "				
Choice	36.00 to 41.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu ... per pcl.	12.00	} Nothing doing.			
" Various	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax	13.50				
Coal, Takashima	9.00 to 10.50 "				
" Karatz	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice	2.25 to 2.40 "				
Sulphur (common)... ..	2.60 to 2.80 "				

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
April 6	China	Berry	Am. str.	3,836	San Francisco	Mar. 4	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 7	Manhegan	Luce	Am. barq.	1,173	Newcastle N.S.W.	Feb. 13	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 7	John Potts	McPherson	Brit. barq.	373	Takao	Mar. 23	Sugar	Jardine Matheson & Co.
" 7	Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Jap. str.	883	Kobe	April 5	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 10	Winlow	Barker	Am. str.	456	Newcastle N.S.W.	Feb. 13	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 10	Afghan	Hunt	Brit. str.	1,439	Glasgow		General	W. M. Strachan & Co.
" 10	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Kobe	April 8	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 11	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Shanghai and ports	" 3	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 11	Oceanic	Metcalf	Brit. str.	3,700	San Francisco	Mar. 19	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 12	Tanais	De la Marcella	Frch. str.	1,746	Hongkong	April 5	Mails and general	M. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Tsuruga-Maru* from Kobe:—Capt. W. C. Law, Mr. and Mrs. Lustemberger, Dr. W. Vander Heyden, and one Japanese in the cabin; and 1 European, 2 Chinese and 133 Japanese in the steerage.

Per Am. str. *China* from San Francisco to Hongkong:—Messrs. W. S. Schinick and child and Claud Chamberlain in the cabin; and 76 Chinese in the steerage. For Yokohama:—2 Europeans in the steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. T. McCunn, Mr. and Mrs. A. Brent, Mr. A. W. Glennie, Mrs. R. Little, Messrs. R. W. Leyland, Andrian, F. V. Dickens, Mr. and Mrs. Fischer, Mr. A. How, Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, Messrs. J. Conder, Nakai, Itami, Hayashi, Iwakura, and Arikawa in cabin; and 3 Europeans, 4 Chinese, and 175 Japanese in steerage.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* from San Francisco:—Hon. W. Maxwell, Dr. C. A. Siegfried, Revd. W. Denning and family, Dr. James Harris, Messrs. Gillman Collomon, J. Blum, S. P. Stratton, F. Low, and J. Haber in cabin; and Mr. Godfrey Hall and 2 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong: Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hodgson, Miss M. Callaghan, Messrs. Henry Crawford, and H. W. Davis in cabin; and 152 Chinese in steerage.

Per Frch. str. *Tanais* from Hongkong, &c:—Messrs. Nabeshima, Nakano, Echaen, Even, Spooner, Burmeister, & Ma'ame Von Hallé.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Laira," Nov. 21; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; S. S. "Madras," Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Soeloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Hase," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24.

FROM HAMBURG:—"August," Oct. 16.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—P. M. S. S. "City of Peking," April 1.

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle," Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM HONGKONG:—"Oxfordshire," April 1.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM TABLE BAY:—"Fair Leader," Jan. 19.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," S. S. "Madras," "Bon Accord," S. S. "Burmese."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. April 16th; Hongkong M. M. str. April 24th; America P. M. str. April 32nd; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 17th.

CARGOES:—Per Jap. str. *Saikio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure \$110,000.00 and 85,830.00 yen.

Per Frch. str. *Tanais* from Hongkong:—General Merchandise, 2,388 packages; Sugar, 2,849 bags; Small Parcels, 11 packages.

REPORTS:—The American steamer *China* reports:—Left San Francisco on March 4th at noon for Yokohama and Hongkong. Had strong head winds to 15th, when had succession of heavy North West gales to 21st. Since which, head winds and variable weather. Running time 32 days 12 hours and 30 minutes.

The American barque *Manhegan* reports:—Left Newcastle N.S.W. on the 13th February; had moderate variable winds with much calm weather to the 3rd instant, when experienced fresh northerly gales and some rain. The British barque *Winlow* left Newcastle N.S.W. on the same day for this port.

The British barque *John Potts* reports:—Left Takao March 23rd; had strong monsoon on the China coast, and fresh northerly gales with high sea on the coast of Japan. Left the *Christine* and *Oceanus* at Takao, loading for this port.

The British steamer *Afghan* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 2nd instant. Had heavy North East monsoon and strong northerly gales with thick foggy weather. The *Oxfordshire* was expected to leave Hongkong a few days lately.

The British steamer *Oceanic* reports:—Left San Francisco on the 19th; from 22nd till 6th April heavy head gales; from thence moderate weather to port.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
April 7	Paralos	Pasco	Frch. barq.	342	Niigata		General	H. Kock.
" 7	Orange Grove	Longmuir	Brit. barq.	378	Kobe		Ballast	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 8	Comet	Norris	Am. ship	1,157	Owari Bay		Ballast	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 8	China	Berry	Am. str.	3,836	Hongkong		Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 8	Iphigenia	Green	Ger. barq.	464	Kobe		Ballast	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 9	Volga	Rolland	Brit. barq.	1,502	Hongkong	Apr. 16	Mails and general	M. B. Co.
" 9	Otome	Brinkmeir	Am. ship	60	Whaling Cruise			Captain.
" 10	Malacca	Smith	Am. barq.	1,709	Hongkong	" 17	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 10	Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Jap. str.	1,870	Shanghai and ports	" 18	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 10	Succes	Olivand	Frch. barq.	363	Hiogo		Ballast	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 11	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 11	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	" 13	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Kumamoto-Maru* for Hiogo:—Mr. E. C. Kirby.

Per Frch. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Lustemberger, Mr. Sikemeier and 2 children, Mrs. Goralach and 3 children, Messrs. Yokoyama, Sadanori, Yoshimoto, Perpetuo, Brown, Matagi, Alexander, Schepel, Okimota, Nohotané, and Berrick.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Mrs. Grigor and 2 children, Mrs. Turner, Russell Robertson, H. B. M.'s Consul, Dr. G. B. Hill, R.N., Messrs. W. J. Mills, W. Andrews, and J. Edmunds; and one Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* for Shanghai and port:—Mr. and Mrs. Kabaiyama, Lieut. Esteve, Messrs. Ikeda, J. Davidson, W. Van der Heyden, F. S. James, Kawada, A. E. Flagg, D. Stephen, E. B. Paul, Nakakami, Takahashi, Sawai, Akizuki, and Thomas Brown.

LOADING:—*Tibre*, for Hongkong and Europe, April 17th.—M. M. Co.

Kokonoye Maru, for Shanghai and ports, April 17th.—M. B. M. Co.

Jotun, for Niigata, Quick despatch.—E. B. Watson.

Johann Wickhorst, for London, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffier & Co.

Oceanic, for Hongkong, April 16th.—O. & O. Co.

Afghan, for Hiogo, April 15th.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Glenorchy, for New York, May 20th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Tamara Maru, for Hakodate, April 15th.—M. B. M. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. April 24th; for Hongkong M. M. str. April 17th; for America O. & O. str. April 20th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 17th; for Hakodate M. B. M. str. April 15th.

CARGOES:—Per Frch. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—Silk for France, 75 bales; Treasure for Hongkong, \$10,450.00.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Silk for London, 34 bales.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$5,100.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Afghan	Hunt	British steamer	1,439	Glasgow	April 10	W. M. Strachan & Co.	Hioho.
Akitsuishima Maru	Gorlach	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate		M. B. M. Co.	
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Kokonoyo Maru	Hussey	Japanese steamer	1,133	Sha'hai & p'rts	April 3	M. B. M. Co.	
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Mar. 28	Lighthouse Department	
Nagoya Maru	Conner	Japanese steamer	1,914	Kobe	April 10	M. B. M. Co.	
Oceanic	Metcalf	British steamer	3,700	San Francisco	April 11	O. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,146	Sha'hai & ports	April 11	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Tamura Maru	Dithlefsen	Japanese steamer	558	Kobe		Government service	
Tanais	De la Marcelle	French steamer	1,746	Hongkong	April 12	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	Mar. 28	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Tauruga Maru	Moore	Japanese steamer	883	Kobe	April 7	M. B. M. Co.	
Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,300	Hioho	Mar. 30	M. B. M. Co.	
Winlow	Barker	American steamer	456	Newcastle n.s.w.	April 10	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
SAILING SHIP.							
Dido	Werner	American cutter	29	Shanghai	April 3	Captain	
Henry A. Litchfield	Drummond	American barque	638	Newcastle n.s.w.	April 2	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	Hamburg & K'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffier & Co.	London.
John Potts	McPherson	British barque	373	Takao	April 7	Jardine Matheson & Co.	
Jotun	Hauff	Norwegian ship	885	Newcastle n.s.w.	Mar. 19	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Niigata.
Lord of the Isles	Watt	British barque	350	Takao	April 2	Chinese	
Manhagan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newcastle n.s.w.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Mount Washington	Perkins	American ship	1,217	Batavio	Mar. 30	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Norman	Campbell	American barque	317	Bonin Islands	April 3	Captain	
Omba	Hall	British ship	836	Shanghai	April 2	Cornes & Co.	For freight, orch'ter.
Sumner R. Mead	Dixon	American ship	1,117	New York	April 5	C. & J. Trading Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Modeste	14 ...	1,405 ...	Corvette	Captain Mead.
BRITISH—Egeria	4 ...	1,011 ...	Sloop	Captain Douglas.
BRITISH—Juno	8 ...	2,216 ...	Corvette	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel	4 ...	462 ...	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
GERMAN—Augusta	12 ...	1,900 ...	Corvette	Captain Hessempluf.
RUSSIAN—Boyan .....	...	2,000 ...	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak	8 ...	1,100 ...	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
RUSSIAN—Vsadnick	8 ...	1,069 ...	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$1,000,000.

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Deputy Chairman—WM. H. FORBES, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., H. L. Dalrymple, Esq., H. Hoppins, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, Adam Lond, Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., W. S. Young.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

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A. H. Phillips, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

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Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

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Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

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Reserved Funds £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hioho, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
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Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

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Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " "	6 "	1	" "
" " "	3 "	¾	" "
" " "	1 "	¾	" "
" " "	10 days	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,

Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE**
INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted.			Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.		
1 prize of	\$ 16,000		1 prize of	\$ 60,000	
1 " " "	4,000		1 " " "	25,000	
5 prizes " "	1,000 each.		5 prizes " "	5,000 each.	
8 " " "	500 "		15 " " "	1,000 "	
20 " " "	100 "		20 " " "	500 "	
450 " " "	30 "		400 " " "	100 "	
2 approximations of	\$250 "		9 approximations of	\$500 "	
Ticket	\$6.00		2 " " "	250 "	
			Ticket	\$24.00	

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

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Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING
SALOON.

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THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. NO. 15.]

April 20, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

THE MITSU BISHI COMPANY.

THE letter of Iwasaki to the *Nichi nichu Shimbun*, which we publish in our Notes of the Week, and which is virtually a Report of the business of the great native steamship line during the year 1877, is of the highest importance, and we can by no means review it fully until we have information at present denied to us. But we cannot pass it over, this week, wholly without comment. At first sight the publication of the letter seems only to be accounted for in one of two ways:—either that Iwasaki has private reasons for wishing to break up the Company, or that he hopes to force the Government to grant an increase of subsidy. It is difficult for us to regard such a document from the Japanese stand-point; looking at it from the point of view of the foreign man of business, we are forced to the conclusion we have stated, and, while we will not deny the possibility that the second object may be achieved, cannot but think the destruction of the concern by far the more likely result. And, agreeing with the writer to the full in all he says of the national importance of the Company, and of the serious loss to the country in prestige which will result from its ceasing its operations; we cannot but think that the country's profit, and particularly the profit of all the shareholders but himself and his personal friends, will be best secured by the cessation of operations at the earliest possible moment. To start, and carry on successfully, a great enterprise like this requires experience, special knowledge and traditions of practice which no young mercantile community, such as that of New Japan, can be expected to possess; and without foreign help, and foreign help of far superior character than the Mitsu Bishi Company at present possesses, the work of a large Steam Navigation Company is altogether beyond the country's strength. It should not have been undertaken without far more consideration and forethought than were ever given to the enterprise; and, as nations and governments, as well as individuals, are liable to mistakes which occasionally place them in false positions,—so the best thing for the nation or the government, as for the individual, is to recognize the error and retreat from the wrong ground, as soon as may be.

Iwasaki's statement is open to the crushing reply that it is incredible: no sensible man can by any possibility believe it. He has been running a line of five steamers, valued at a million *yen*, between this and Shanghai, touching at the Japanese Coast ports. There has been virtually no opposition, and he has had almost the entire goods and passenger traffic at fair rates. The Company from whom he bought the vessels ran them at a cost of, on a high average, \$7,000 a month each for four, one being always laid up in reserve:—say for all of them for the year, of \$340,000. He has had, in addition to certainly as much as this in freight and passenger money, a subsidy of \$250,000 from Go-

vernment, and yet Iwasaki impudently tells the public that on this line he is *losing* \$300,000 a year. He must publish accounts of the line, and these accounts will have to be 'cooked' in some fashion as yet undiscovered by accountants, before he will succeed in deceiving any shareholder, the most confiding, into belief in such a statement. Again, he tells us that he derives no profit from his other lines, and particularizes losses on some. Now we all know that there is so large a native trade between this and Osaka, the carriage department of which is wholly in his hands, that he has continually to put on extra steamers, and that foreign cargo is frequently shut out, the vessels being as full as they can be loaded. Again we challenge him to produce detailed and properly audited accounts, of these subordinate lines. Until this is done, neither can we accept the figures he vouchsafes us of fourteen thousand *yen* lost on the Hakodate, and three thousand odd on the Hoki line.

The rest of his 'facts' where he affects to given any, are equally unsatisfactory. The chartering of his steamers by Government for the carriage of troops during the civil war last year certainly inconvenienced shippers considerably, and the war itself doubtless also checked trade. But we are to presume that the Government paid for their charters, that the troops were not carried for nothing; and ship-owners who get charters for their vessels as troop-ships do not generally have to complain of any losses on such business. Besides, he tells us that it was from December to February last, that his Shanghai line lost \$72,000 (which, as he says 'means a loss of \$300,000 a year') and Government charters did not interfere with him then.

We are quite aware that Iwasaki and his friends have completely mismanaged the line. Their steamers were bought, as a rule, badly, to begin with. A million *yen* was not a very extravagant price to pay for the Pacific Mail Company's property—steamers, wharves, land, and plant,—considering that, besides the property, the P.M.S. Co. was bought off the line, and their vessels got in running order, with officers and crews complete. But subsequently, they put themselves into extremely bad hands, and made most injudicious purchases. Always, they have failed to take proper care of their vessels, have stinted them of docking and repairs, and, having given far too much for their ships, have refused to spend the necessary money to keep them in good order. Their treatment of their foreign officers has been scandalous; they have paid them badly, unshipped and transhipped them unjustly and capriciously, insulted them by want of confidence, and, by a general line of conduct showing that their main object was to get rid of them as soon as possible, have discouraged and depressed them in every way. This is not the way the Cunard, the P. & O., the White Star, the Royal Mail, and the other great Navigation Companies of the world breed for themselves a succession of skilful, painstaking, zealous and trustworthy officers; and in no way does the Company

deserve the retribution of failure more than by its treatment of its foreign employees.

In the absence of authenticated statements of accounts by the Company or its Director, and not having as yet had time to make out any rough figures of what *ought to have been* their expenditure and receipts for ourselves, we must leave Iwasaki and his Company for future dissection. We may conclude by telling the Government that, if this individual and his co-managers cannot carry on a thoroughly efficient service, for mails, passengers and cargo, between all the ports in China and Japan where the Mitsu Bishi flag is now seen, with the help of a subsidy of 250,000 *yen* per annum;—there is more than one foreign firm in Yokohama that can do it for less, and give heavy guarantees that in all respects the service shall be more efficiently performed.

THE FORESTRY LAWS. II.

IN our issue of April 6th, we commenced our review of the Forestry Notification recently issued by the Naimusho; and, having pointed out the important omission of any regulations for Governmental or Communal forests, we remarked on the excess of interference proposed in the management of 'private' forests, interference with no counterbalancing advantage of encouragement, by subsidy or loan; and promised to go into details on this point. This promise we fulfil to-day.

In countries where the science of forestry is properly understood and practised, private woods may with great advantage be left in the hands of their proprietors, without any interference on the part of government. Some owners will cultivate them merely for the beauty with which they ornament their domains, others for the protection they afford to game; some to give shelter to the land, others to supply fuel or timber for sale. In all cases, private interest may be trusted to turn them to good advantage, and when sudden pressure for money forces an improvident or unfortunate land-owner to cut down his woods, the damage done to the district around him is infinitesimal, and no one is injured to any great extent but his heirs. In Japan, we see that landed proprietors are so ignorant or so greedy, that this damage becomes serious, and here we think that Governmental control might be exercised to advantage. For instance, grants of land in Hokkaido having recently been made, in lieu of their pensions, to some dispossessed *moazoku* and *shisoku*, these men have immediately commenced to denude the land entirely of its trees, have sold the timber, down even to the brushwood, and then—without making the least provision for the re-growth of wood, or, indeed, any attempt at cultivation in any form—have simply abandoned their grants, and gone to live, in the towns, on the proceeds of the spoiled land. We do not find in these newly-notified regulations any attempt to interfere with this class of private proprietors, where control would be most fit and reasonable, but what the Government aims at is to increase a new one—of wood-farmers—who shall specially devote their capital, time and labour, to improving the country by afforesting it, where it has been denuded of wood; and what we wish to point out to the authorities is, that the conditions they offer are not sufficiently advantageous to induce such investment. A rent of from two-tenths to one-half of the produce is a crushing one, when are considered the first cost of preparing and planting waste lands, and the length of time which must elapse before any return is received, in the case of land afforested with a view to the future provision of timber or fuel; while the vague character of Sec. V. must act as a deterrent to a proprietor planting waste hillsides for ornament, or for improvement of his adjacent property. Such plantations can hardly be expected, if the government

retains the right, after the trees are grown, *i.e.* when they are doing what they were planted for—ornamenting or protecting a domain,—of stepping in and either cutting down half of the forest, to the detriment of the remainder, or of inflicting a heavy fine upon any proprietor who wished to keep his woods. We are not acquainted with any European country where such regulations would not check, instead of promote, the afforesting of waste lands. Of course, if the land should be unavoidably required for public purposes, the Government would have an indubitable right to re-enter in possession, as provided for in the note to Section V. but should pay, in such cases, at a fair valuation for the grown and growing timber. But otherwise, the title given with waste lands granted for afforestation should not be in any way insecure, should be in perpetuity, and its rent should be a moderate tax on the sales of wood; below even two-tenths. A tenth would be quite sufficient, and this percentage should be paid by the wood grower when he made his periodical sales. It would be to his advantage to sell to best advantage, thus increasing the amount of the Government's share; it would be difficult for him to conceal the prices he got for his produce; and he would spare the Government all the expense of agency, appraisement, cutting and removal. Government, in return for the tenth of the proceeds of sales, should provide proper means of transit for the cut timber, which would again redound to its advantage, as the more easily carried the wood, the greater the price it would fetch. And there is yet another item of assistance which the Government ought to give as an inducement to afforestation. It should give seed *gratis*, and might also, with great advantage, in the case of new, imported, species, give young plants reared, during their first difficult and most expensive years of infancy, in governmental nurseries. Also—and this is really of the highest importance—such instructions as we sketched out in our article of February 16th should be published and widely distributed in the *kens* where afforestation is desirable; while cadets of the new Department of Woods and Forests should be sent to study in the Forest schools of Germany, France and England, to fit them for their duties as inspectors, for which they certainly will not be ready, even with the best of educations, till the first of the new trees are grown.

It may appear to the framers of the Naimusho Notification that our recommendations, if carried out, would leave the Government very small profits out of the expected transactions, in lieu of the two-tenths or five-tenths of the product they propose to take. But, in the first place, we entertain the gravest doubts whether any capitalists will be found to invest money in such a business, and go on spending for fifteen years without return. And secondly—and mainly—it should be considered that what the Government will be doing in promoting the afforestation of the waste places of the country will be a general, a public good, and it is to be congratulated if the money it has to expend is approximately balanced by receipts in taxes. There should be no thought of making direct money profit out of the business. For as, if disafforestation be allowed to go on, the climate will deteriorate, the whole country suffer, and, finally, famine come to do in Japan what it is doing in China: so, by the promotion of afforestation, the whole country will gain, and for such an end the expenditure of public money is legitimate and desirable. For the growth of trees, it must not be forgotten, besides the advantages we have so often enumerated, contributes, indirectly, but largely, to the fertilization of all lands that are situated at a lower level than the plantations. The waters which drain down from forest lands, and which the rivulets carry into rivers, are highly valuable, impregnated with the decayed vegetable matter annually shed by the trees, and furnish their quota of compost to the cultivator in the form best suited for assimilation by his growing crops. It

is thus, as a benefactor to the country generally, that the forest-grower should be regarded and, as such, every inducement should be given to him and all assistance he can require. He must not be checked in his useful career, by vexatious governmental interference with either his processes or his profits.

Section VI., which provides for the local authorities keeping forest records, is excellent, and might with advantage be extended to cover a number of particulars not mentioned at present. Section VIII. is also good in intention, but the age for thinnings in the case of conifers ought to be extended to at least twenty years, during which the tenant should have the use and benefit of them, they being worth comparatively little, and it being an object to encourage the diligent thinning of such woods. Whereas, we think, after eight years, the cultivator might fairly be asked to pay his tax on the sales of all thinnings of his hardwoods, which are of much greater value. The arbitrary four posts, at four corners, ordered by Section IX. will seldom be found to give a convenient boundary line, and the natural configuration of the land should dictate the limits of the forests, and these should be fixed by the Government authorities, not by the tenant. The only other criticisms which we have to make are with respect to the note to Section X. relating to mortgaging or pawning the trees; and on the note to Section XI. which fixes three years as the limit allowed for plantation. We do not think that mortgaging growing timber should be allowed at all, inasmuch as the mortgagee has no interest in its preservation and increase; and, with respect to our last objection should be remembered the almost numberless varieties of circumstance in connection with afforestation, before laying down such a hard and fast line. A penalty for want of due diligence on the part of the tenant, proved by the local authorities, and with an appeal to the Head Office, appears to us all that would be necessary. In conclusion, as we are sure the Government appreciate our interest in this question as unselfish, so we hope that they will accept our criticism as well-meant. If they will attend to the general lines of our suggestions, that encouragement and assistance must be given to the planter, not a large part of his gains demanded from him; and that interference should be judicious and as slight as may be consistent with due care of the public weal;—all details may safely be left for subsequent arrangement by the municipal and provincial authorities, and proper adaptation to local requirement; and any information that we can give or procure for them, from sources unknown or inaccessible to themselves, will always be freely placed at their disposal.

THE following Notification, calling in all the old paper money, of one *yen* and under, (the *Daijokwan no Satzu*), first issued in 1869, was published in Tokio yesterday:—

NOTIFICATION No. 19TH OF THE OKURASHO,
(the Financial Affairs Department.)

To *Fu* and *Ken*,

It is hereby notified that the circulation of the paper money of and under one *yen*, which were issued by the *Daijokwan* and *Mimbusho*, will be discontinued after the 30th day of the 6th month this year; that the exchange of the same shall commence on the 1st day of the same month; and should be effected without fail before the period expires. The application for exchange should be in accordance with the Notification No. 20th of the 2nd month of the 8th year of Meiji.—

Note. The words *Shiheiryo* and *Shiheinokami* written in the application for exchange should be looked on as *Shiutsunokiyoku* and *Shiutsunokiyokuchō*, and the money for exchange should be paid out from the *Shiutsunokiyoku* in the neighbourhood, or out of the amount of deposits.

OKUMA SHIGENOBU,
Minister of Financial Affairs.

18th day of the 4th month of the 11th year of Meiji.

REFERRING to an article from the *Hochi Shimbun* translated into our columns from the Japanese press in which the writer urges the 'powerful old crane' to utter a cry of warning—i.e. that Government should interfere to limit the production of silk-worms' eggs, the following translation of a report from a Japanese in Italy on the prospects of last year's exportations of eggs on native account is of great interest. It was published in the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō* of the 6th inst.:—

"The present state of the trade in silk-worms' eggs is 'very dull, which is due, I think, to the excess of stock over demand, and to its being yet too early in the season for transactions. Current prices quoted by merchants and brokers are said to be from 2 to 3 *lire* per card, but the price at which silk-merchants actually sell to customers, or make contracts for, is a little higher. Under these circumstances, not even two or three-tenths of the total import are being disposed of, but merchants do not seem to be distressed at the prospect, for they say: 'If the price is so low in the beginning of the season, there is no fear that it will go lower,' and 'when the silk-growers hear of these low prices, they will put aside their home grown eggs, and buy imported ones, so that though the import be large, it will not be wasted.' I cannot predict what the future of the market will be, but at the same time, I cannot put much faith in these arguments.

"The eggs which Silk growers generally like best are those grown at *Kawashiri-gōri* in *Akita*, and their price is about fifteen *lire* per card; the *Shimamura* and *Yanagawa* ones come next, and these of *Joshin*, *Bushiu* and *Shinshiu* are disliked, whether the quality be good or bad; the latter two sorts may not always be bad, but there being not a few carelessly filled, I regret to say they have got a bad name.

"Silk-merchants and silk-growers in this country are, contrary to my expectation, inexperienced in judging of the quality of the silkworm eggs, and as it is their custom to buy simply by marks and by rumour of their character, I consider those with *Akita* marks will grow more and more into favour, and that *graineurs* coming to *Yokohama* this year will doubtless compete for buying this sort."

To silk-men in this country, this letter is excessively amusing, but the humour of it is so purely technical that its development would be thrown away on the majority of our readers. We may, however, for the benefit of our native friends, say a few words on the subject next week, when we shall be less pressed for space than on this occasion.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

(Appendix to Dr. Naumann's paper, published March 30th.)

CATALOGUE OF THE EARTHQUAKE LITERATURE OF JAPAN.

A. EARTHQUAKE CHRONOLOGIES.

- 1.—*Jishin Nendaiki*. Earthquake Chronology.
- 2.—*Honchō Jishinki*. Description of Japanese Earthquakes.
- 3.—*Ojishin Kō*. Considerations on Japanese Earthquakes and their actual consequences.
- 4.—*Kiōtō Ojishin Nendaiki*. Chronology of the great earthquakes of *Kiōtō*.
- 5.—*Shokoku Jishinki*. Account of the earthquakes which have occurred in the various provinces.

B. EARTHQUAKE MONOGRAPHS.

- 6.—*Shinano no kuni Ojishin San-sen Hōgeki dzu*. Great earthquake in the province of *Shinano*, with account of the destruction wrought by rivers and mountains (1847.)
- 7.—*Shinshiu Saikawa Hōgeki Rikugun Hiyōtō no dzu*. Destruction occasioned by the river *Saikawa* in *Shinshiu* (1847.)
- 8.—*Shin-Etsu Ojishin*. Great Earthquake in *Shinshiu* and *Echizen* (1847.)

- 9.—Shokoku Ojishinki. Description of a Great Earthquake which extended over many provinces.
- 10.—Ansei Kembun Shi. Account of events which occurred in the period Ansei (1854-1859). This book recounts the destruction in Yedo, occasioned by the Great Earthquake of 1855. It also contains an account of the fate of some who suffered in it.
- 11.—Ansei Kembun Roku. Record of events during the period Ansei. This work contains chiefly an account of the remarkable fate of some people during the Great Earthquake.
- 12.—Shinshiu Jishin ki. Description of the Great Earthquake of Shinshiu (1847). Recounts the destruction which took place in the six districts of Shinshiu by the Earthquake, and by the inundations.
- 13.—Ojishin Tairiaku. Abridged account of a Great Earthquake. This contains exclusively an account of the destruction wrought by the Great Earthquake of July 7th 1854 to the streets and buildings of Kiôtô. It also contains many of the memorials made to the Shôgun by the Daimiôs relative to the devastation of their provinces.
- 14.—Zatsu-shiu-batsu-sho. Extracts from a miscellany. It contains. 1° The devastation wrought in Shinshiu by the great earthquake. 2° The numbers of killed and wounded people and animals in the various parts the district. 3° Reports from the Daimiôs to the Shôgun.
- 15.—Jishingo Sezokugo no Tane. Contents. 1° Concerning the god Zenkoji: and a very detailed account of the Shinshiu earthquakes. 2° Illustrated account of the destruction wrought in the district by the earthquake, by fire, and by the inundations. 3° The fate of the inhabitants of the province. 4° The inundations of the Saikawa, and of the Chikuma-gawa.
- 16.—Ojishin Onkaki-age. The report to the Shôgun of the Daimiôs of Shinshiu relative to the great earthquake of 1847.
- 17.—Shinshiu Jishinki. Detailed account of the Shinshiu earthquake.
- 18.—Bukô Shinsai-riakki. Description of the evils occasioned by the earthquake of Yedo.
- VOLUME I.—1° Destruction of parts of Yedo by earthquake and fire. 2° Fate of some of the people
- „ II.—Fate of some of the people.
- „ III.—Map of Yedo, in which the burned quarter is marked.
- „ IV.—The same contents as I and II.
- C. CONCERNING EARTHQUAKES IN GENERAL.
- 19.—Jishin Kô. Considerations on earthquakes.
- 20.—Jishin setsu. Earthquake Theories.—1° European theories on the origin of Earthquakes. 2° Examples of great earthquakes in America, Europe and in Asiatic Countries.
- D. BOOKS RELATING TO VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS.
- 21.—Shin-shiu Asama-yama Yakekikigaki. Description of an eruption of Asamayama. It contains:—1° Eruption in the third year of Temmei (1783). 2° Reports of the Daimiôs and provincial officers on the devastations wrought in their respective provinces by the lava, showers of ashes, and earthquakes.
- 22.—Tem-mei Shin-shiu Jô-shiu Hen-riaku. Abridged account of the eruption in the Temmei period in Shinshiu and Jôshiu.
- 23.—Idzu no kuni O-shima Ka-san no ki. Description of the Volcanic island of Oshima situated in the province of Idzu. It contains an account of the outbreak of Mihanayama in 1684; the rest is chiefly reports from the provincial officials on accidents and eruptions.
- 24.—Idzu Kai To-shi.
- 25.—Awogashima (an island south of Hachijô). Contents. Earthquake Eruption and formation of a cave.—
- 26.—Ya-shiu Shiranayama Shin do Jô-shin. Account of movements of Shiranayama in Kôzuke. It also contains an account of an earthquake, and of the eruption which occurred in the sixth year of Meiji.
- 27.—Fuji Kô-sha-ki. Account of a shower of ashes from Fuji.—
- 28.—Onsengatake Shoshitsuki. Account of an eruption of Unsengatake.
- 29.—Suru-ga no koku shi Fuji no koto. Description of Fujiyama in the province of Suruga.
- 30.—Sei-yu Zatsu-ki. Miscellaneous sketches of a tour in the West of Kiushiu. Also a short account of the volcano Asoyama in Higo.
- E. AUXILIARY WORKS.
- 31.—Shin-sen Nempio. In this work the years back to 3984 B.C. are placed together in Japanese, Chinese and European chronological order. The days cannot be exactly verified by the aid of these tables; this can only be done in the case of the years. For instance the first year of Meiji according to this Calendar is 1868, whereas in reality it is 1869.
- 32.—Tai-yo Tai-in Rio-reki Tai-shiyô-hiyô. Comparative tables of Japanese and European dates. The author says in the preface; "In this book I have compared the old calendar with the new; so that we may be able to reckon our ages according to European years, and also that we may fix the dates of the deaths of our fathers and ancestors according to the same system.
- The tables unfortunately only go back as far as 1501.
- (The following are the Japanese titles of the above mentioned books, numbered as in the English list.)
1. 地震年代記
 2. 本朝地震記
 3. 大地震暦年考
 4. 京都大地震年代記
 5. 諸國地震記
 6. 信濃國大地震山川崩激圖
 7. 信州犀川崩激六郡漂蕩之圖
 8. 信越大地震
 9. 諸國大地震記
 10. 安政見聞誌
 11. 安政見聞録
 12. 信州地震記
 13. 大地震大略
 14. 雜集拔書
 15. 地震後世俗語之種
 16. 大地震御書上
 17. 信州地震記
 18. 武江震災略記
 19. 地震考
 20. 地震説
 21. 信州淺間山燒聞書
 22. 天明信州上州變略
 23. 伊豆國大島火山之記
 24. 伊豆甲斐土誌
 25. 青ヶ島
 26. 野州白根山震動上申
 27. 富士降砂記
 28. 温泉嶽燒失記
 29. 駿河國誌富士之事
 30. 西遊雜記
 31. 新撰年表
 32. 太陽大陰兩曆對照表
 - 33.—Japanese Chronological Tables, compiled by E. M. S.
- The changing of Japanese dates into European, is much more difficult than perhaps the reader may imagine. Not long since the Japanese only had lunar years such as, for instance, the Greeks had. The year was calculated by lunar months, and by means of intercalary months, the lunar year was made to coincide with the solar year. The

sixty year cycle was also used. For the calculation of the years the above named auxiliary books were used. As far as the records before 1501 are concerned, the dates calculated in this manner cannot be regarded as completely correct. In a number of cases, and especially when the earthquakes occur in the first or last months of the year, the convulsions really occurred a year earlier or later than that given. Moreover the authorities themselves cannot be regarded throughout as exact in the years. Thus for example the Jishin nendaiki, and the Honcho jishinki differ frequently from each other. The former appears to me to be entitled to somewhat more credit.

THE ERUPTION OF FUJIYAMA IN 1707.

“AN occurrence such as that of the year 1707, when “Fujiyama suddenly opened in a place which was “overgrown with trees, and vomited out fire, and when “ashes and stones were thrown out and fell over provinces “and districts, is certainly a rare one. This rain of stones “and ashes lasted for ten days, so that fields, temples and “houses were covered with the ejected masses to the depth “of ten feet. The inhabitants in the neighbourhood of “Fuji lost their homes, and many died of hunger. Of “numerous villages, not a trace is now to be found. I “myself have been one of the unhappy eyewitnesses of this “awful eruption, and the memory of it fills me with sorrow “and anguish.” As I spoke thus to my friend, the tears wetted my cheeks, and I could not withstand his pressing request that I should write down what details I knew of the abovementioned remarkable occurrence, and so I have written them as follows:—

The temple of Unkiyosan Jôkojenji, my former residence, lay on the eastern side of Fuji, and from four to five *ri* distant from it. On the morning of the 16th December, 1707, I was much startled by a violent earthquake which was accompanied by subterranean noises. Houses and other buildings were rocked to and fro by the violent shocks, like a ship on the sea by the waves, and were thrown down. At eight o'clock, the hollow noises which came from the South West resembled thunder a hundred thousand fold increased. Soon after, black masses of smoke rose up from the mountain, and spread over the whole heavens, turning the day into dark night. Stones each as large as a football, now whizzed through the air, and, falling to the ground exploded in sparks. I observed one of these fallen stones; it resembled a snail's shell, was of a yellow colour, with a very unpleasant smell, and very trifling weight. Here and there the balls of lava set houses on fire, and killed people. Most awful was this fatal time! Men and women, people of all ranks and of every age, lay before the images of the Gods, imploring with loud cries for protection and rescue, and some desiring a speedy death. Towards evening, the noises resounded both from the East and West; the shocks came now with such fearful force that it gave one the feeling of having the head split. The noises came afterwards from another direction, and ice and stones (*Hiyôseki*) about the size of peaches fell to the earth; they had a salty taste, and were as heavy as gold and lead. At length, on the morning of the 17th December, the shower of ashes abated somewhat, and the subterranean noises also grew weaker. Now also, the sky was again visible, where the black clouds separated; and when I got the first glimpse of the glimmering stars, I knew that the world did not as yet lie in ruins. Every thing was now covered with ashes. The spirit of life was broken for us. We reflected within ourselves, why should we live. Even though heaven and earth and men are still here, it is better to die. The sun had lost its lustre, and the day was again became night. The helpless people suffered from hunger and thirst. Wells were not to be thought of. The unhappy wretches had to run to the large river in order to slake their thirst with the dirty water. On the 18th December, the fall of ashes became much less, and now for the first time parents could descry their children without lanterns or torches. A man who made a visit into a neighbouring district found as follows:—When Fuji commenced to vomit fire, and nameless misfortunes were being prepared for us, all was quite still in the neighbourhood. The inhabitants were nevertheless in the greatest fear, and leaving their property behind them, fled from their houses. It fared badly with the animals, most of whom were struck by the falling stones.

On the 19th December, the sun looked out through the clouds, but still the shower of ashes did not cease; also stones the size of a peach fell. From this day forward Fuji was visible.

On the 31st December, it was at last quite still; the shower of ashes had ceased, and the weather was beautiful as usual. The government had the corpses buried, and the depth of the bed of ashes at the different places measured. The strata varied greatly, according to the distance from Fuji, and to the elevation or depression of the place. At some of the villages in the neighbourhood and at the foot of the mountain, the ashes were twelve feet in depth. In my neighbourhood (my temple lay only three *ri* from the village of Fusomura, and nine *ri* from the summit of Fuji) they were over three and a half in the valleys, and on the other hand on the hills 10, 20, 50 and even 70 feet in depth.

The above is far from being a complete account of the distress occasioned by the eruption of Fuji in 1707, in all its terrible details.

The book Okubo Kaki relates as follows:—On the 16th December 1707, masses of smoke ascended from the crater of Fujiyama, and the mountain threw out glowing ashes and lava over an area of 20 square *ri*. The shower of ashes lasted until the following month. The river Sanosekigawa, and the lake, sixty *chô* in area, near Gotemba, Futabashi, Fukasawa, and Nishita were filled with ashes, so that no water was to be found there. At the village of Nisugimura the ashes were 7 feet deep, and therefore reached nearly, to the roofs of the peasant's houses. In certain villages the ashes pressed into the houses themselves, and three were crushed by the weight. At the village of Midzutono they lay also 7 feet deep, so that only the roofs were visible; at the village of Tsubashimura 10 feet, Kosatsuba (Place of the Notice Board) covered with ashes; half of Asama temple hidden in ashes; only one part of the roof of the building Jushinomon visible; the building almost entirely buried, the roof only visible, which was also the case with the Gohonsha. In those places where the shower of ashes was particularly heavy, such as Midaikamigo, the bamboos were left leafless, and as a general rule, only the trunk and boughs were left of the trees and plants. In the villages, in which the ruin was especially great, the people suffered from want of water, and it had to be procured from great distances. As the wheat and rice fields in the Odawara district were completely destroyed by the shower of ashes, the Government gave the prince new territory in March 1708, to the extent of 56,300 Koku.

An individual named Chiuosô relates as follows:—

From about the 20th of the 11th month of the 4th year of Hôei (13th December 1707), the weather in Yedo was very rough and cold. At 12 o'clock on the 23rd an earthquake stock shock was felt, and subterranean noises were heard from time to time. At first the sky appeared only partially dark, and that from South to West, as if it were spread over with ink. But the black cloud grew visibly larger, and when the setting sun showed itself once more through the clouds, all Yedo presented a very woful appearance. The heavens were soon quite concealed by dark masses of smoke, and it had become dark night: At three o'clock it began to rain gray ashes; and the inhabitants were stricken with a great terror. Old people asserted that the ashes came from Asama in Shinshiu, as had been the case eight or nine years previously; and this somewhat cased the minds of the populace. The fall of ashes now became heavier and heavier; the earth shook night and day, and black darkness reigned over all. By day lanterns had to be used in order to distinguish colours. The streets were desolate, and of the few who ventured out, some injured their eyes, or suffered in other ways. People thought the utter destruction of the earth was at hand. The cries of women and children in their fear were unceasing. When the news of the eruption of Fuji reached Yedo the following day, the people felt relieved. The layer of ashes was 7 or 8 in. deep, and in many places was more than a foot. After the fall had ceased, the ground was cleared; nevertheless, for seven or eight years after, every wind swept ashes before it.

A letter from Fujigori in the province of Suruga, gives the following account:—

“From 2 o'clock yesterday, the 22nd, until to day, about thirty intense earthquake shocks occurred, which destroyed many houses. Yesterday at 10 o'clock, hollow subter-

anean thunder began to roll, and shortly after black clouds of smoke became visible over Fuji. All the inhabitants were filled with the same painful anxiety, but no one up to the present has been killed. The masses of smoke rose higher and higher over the mountain. During the day nothing was seen but these black clouds, but as night came on, flashes of fire sprang from the mountain."

After this letter was received in Yedo, the fire became greater and greater, and ashes and stones were thrown up in all directions and fell, some of them twenty *ri* off, in the neighbouring provinces. The shower of ashes was especially heavy in Idzu, Sagami and Suruga; in some places it was 20 feet deep, so that the number of houses and temples which were destroyed, and of fields which were wasted, could not be estimated. The violence of the eruption began to abate, and at last it ceased completely. A great crater was formed where the lava was thrown out, and near this a new mountain called Hoyoisan arose. At that time this widely renowned mountain, the equal of which will be sought for in vain in China and Corea, injured its beautiful form. How mournful!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE publish above as much more of Dr. Naumann's interesting paper on earthquakes as we can find space for in this number. We omit a list of the earthquakes since the 5th century, which was given in part in Mr. Hattori's paper read before the Asiatic Society and published by our contemporary the *Japan Mail*. This list mentioned 149 earthquakes and occupied nine columns of the paper, Dr. Naumann enumerates 196, and gives fuller particulars. We give a list of the books consulted by Dr. Naumann, which students of the subject may like to have—but we think it only necessary to give two or three specimens of particular disasters. If the reading of the instalment to-day has the same effect on our readers as the preparation of it for the press has had on the writer, a decided feeling of insecurity and disinclination to invest in house property in this country will be experienced.

We think it right to mention that Dr. Naumann's paper was read on the 16th Feb., Mr. Hattori's on the 23rd March.

WE appear to have been misled in our surmise that the *Eurydice* was lost in the West Indies, if the following telegram is correct which was received and published by the Shanghai papers:—

"London, March 24th, (midnight).—The British Naval Training ship *Eurydice*, Captain Marcus A. S. Ware, belonging to the Portsmouth Station, has capsized in the English Channel, with a loss of four hundred lives."

There can hardly be any way of accounting for the disaster in such a latitude except that which we have suggested, that no compensations were made for her changed weights, when her battery was altered. A terrible disaster, happen how it may have done, and only paralleled by the loss of the *Royal George* in 1782, when

"——Kempenfeldt went down
With twice four hundred men."

The particulars of this misfortune are now almost forgotten, but many of us may recollect seeing pieces of furniture and articles of 'Tunbridge ware' made from pieces of the wreck, when she was blown up in 1839, after many ineffectual attempts had been made to bring her bodily to the surface. She capsized because heeled over too much, while some repairs were being done to her bottom, and from neglect to close the lower deck ports on the depressed side. She was one of the finest vessels then in the fleet, carrying 108 guns. Vice-Admiral Kempenfeldt was aboard her at the time, writing in his cabin. As Cowper wrote

"His sword was in its sheath
His fingers held the pen,"

and with him sank eleven hundred men, women and children, of whom only about two hundred were saved. One can hardly imagine such an accident happening twice in a century in the English navy, and we await particulars of the loss of the *Eurydice* with no little curiosity.

WE HAVE been hesitating, for some days, whether we should, or should not, take notice of the '*Chihokuwan Kuwaigi*' or Assembly of Provincial Governors. Our Tokio correspondent, who furnishes us with the translations from native papers which we publish weekly, writes us, yesterday, to say that for some days the principal journals will be full of reports of the proceedings of this Assembly, and asks whether we want the debates. Probably a slight synopsis of the subjects treated will be all that our readers will care for; the House is a mere caricature of the Representative Assembly promised by the Mikado to his people when he resumed power, and has about as much influence on the conduct of affairs in Japan as the Oxford Union exercises on the deliberations of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet. But we will, next week, give a sample of the reports; and shall then be able to judge whether the whole series is worthy of record.

THOUGH writers in the native press have to use much circumlocution and parable in criticising the acts of their own government, they are certainly candid enough when they have to treat of those of foreign countries, and call things by their right names with charming frankness. But they are not often so well justified in their strictures as is the gentleman whose article on the imbecility of what is called International Law we quote to-day from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. France, Germany, England, Russia, and Austria all in turn get their share of rebuke, and it cannot be denied that his cynical conclusion is natural,—that, in the event of war between England and Russia, Japan should, instead of "perplexing herself about the principles of International Law," keep a bright look out for herself and pick up any advantage she may be able to gain. It will be just as well, though, we may hint, that in this laudable care for their people's interests, Japanese statesmen should be cautious to do nothing at which either of the combatants can take offence, lest Japan should furnish another to the list of victims of Great Powers' disregard of International Law, when dealing with little ones.

To both native and foreign readers, who are interested in the subject of International Law, and anxious to know what legislative power formulates its edicts, what tribunal is to issue its judgments, what force to put them in execution, we recommend the study of the introductory chapters of Mr. Kinglake's brilliant and exhaustive History of the Crimean War, in which he treats of the 'Public opinion of Europe' and 'the Balance of Power.'

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* revives the discussion on 'Straw shoes versus Boots' for the army. He prefers the former, and argues, very properly, that because boots suit European soldiers, it does not follow that they should be suitable for Japanese. He points out that Europeans, being used to wearing boots from their childhood, do not feel the same inconvenience from wearing them as do the native soldiery; and as for the argument that the leathern boot better protects the foot against spikes &c., in rough ground, he disposes of this by showing that as the Japanese army is recruited mainly from the agricultural classes; these peasants, farmers, hunters and woodcutters having all their lives been accustomed to wear straw shoes on rough ground, he fails to see why they should find them any worse wear, after they have become soldiers than they did before. On the other hand, when they are first shod with leathern boots, instead of being able to move easily and quickly in them, they are—as he puts it—'like an old man walking on a bridge made of a single log, even when they are walking on level ground.' Also that when they have worn them for some time, a march of two or three miles knocks up a good many of the men with sore feet from the friction of the boots, and how much worse would this be in rough ground on actual service?

He is not so successful in disposing of the principal argument on the other side of the question:—the enormous quantity of straw shoes requisite on service, and the difficulty of transport; his only reply being that the shoes should be made stronger. This is an insuperable objection to the use of straw sandals, and as the matter is one of great importance, we strongly again commend to the notice of the War office the suggestion made by ourselves when discussing the question in our own columns—that a sandal with a leathern sole should be tried. As we pointed out,

our own soldiers in the Indian mutiny, when forced marches had to be made, cut down their boots into sandals with great advantage and comfort to themselves and we are quite certain, from both reading and experience, that some sort of leathern sandal is the best and cheapest foot gear for the soldier, easily, by means of a gaiter, made to look sightly on parade.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, April 19th.

WE notice that during the tea season a monthly line of steamers will leave for New York via the Suez Canal, the agents here being Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co. This move should have the effect of bringing down freights on the two rival Pacific lines. Up to the time of our going to press we have received no inward home mail since our last issue, but the *Gaelic*, which is bringing the English mail, due here on the 16th, is now hourly expected. The *Tibre*, with the French mail due in London June 10th, left on Wednesday morning, and an outward and inward mail to and from Hakodate, and to and from Shanghai and ports, have to be recorded.

The time of the *Glencagles* from Shanghai hither will hardly be beaten. She lost four hours by having to stop outside, in consequence of thick weather, but made the passage, including this delay, in little over eighty hours. Thus her speed must have averaged about fourteen knots: and this in moderately heavy weather. Very interesting, in connection with this trip of the *Glencagles*, are the reports which reach us from Bombay of a public meeting held there in the Town Hall on Friday the 1st March, to memorialise the Postmaster General of England with respect to the renewal of the Overland Mail contract, when the P. & O. contract expires in February 1880. Many speeches were made, all advocating competition for the contract and insisting upon the necessity of an increase of speed. Nearly thirty years ago, it was argued, the P. & O. ran very inferior boats to what they possess now, at nine nautical miles an hour, and their present speed is only nine and a half. Whereas the Cunard, White Star, Inman, and other Atlantic mail steamers do their 12 and 13 knots an hour, and there is no reason, say the Bombay merchants, why the Indian mail steamers should not do as much, so as to deliver the London mails in Bombay in 16 days, which would necessitate an average speed of about 12½ knots between Bombay and Suez, and 13 knots an hour between Alexandria and Brindisi. The memorial, adopted further urged the abandonment of the Southampton line as useless, and the separation of the Australian and the China mails from the Indian mails in the new contract. The object of holding the meeting was to back up the representations already made by the Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay Chambers of Commerce respecting the terms of the new contract, and to impress upon the Postmaster General that India ought to be consulted in the matter. It would be most desirable for the Chambers of Commerce of China and Japan to object to this separation of interests. We do not see that our interests are less to us than are Indian merchants' to them; and that the P. & O. steamers should come on at 12 or 13 knots as far as Galle and then slow down on the China line to 9 or 10, is most 'tolerable and not to be endured.' No—in this case, if the geese of Bombay are to get such a *sauce piquante* as thirteen knots, we ganders of the Far East are clearly entitled to the same service.

The existing mail contract with the P. & O. Company was entered into in 1860, and will expire in 1880. By it the Company undertook to carry the mails at an average speed of nine knots an hour, which was thought very fine twenty years ago. In 1874 the Company asked to be allowed to carry the heavy portion of the mails through the Suez Canal, instead of overland through Egypt according to the contract, and a modification of the contract was then achieved by the Postmaster-General, by which the speed was increased to nine and a half knots, and the subsidy was reduced by small sum. It is clear that the speed must be increased con-

siderably in the new contract, for it is not in accordance with reason that the steamers of the Glen, Castle, Holt's, and other lines should go faster than mail steamers, though we doubt whether an average speed of 12 knots ought to be asked for from a permanent service, which a mail service must be above everything. We think the difference might fairly be split, and eleven knots an hour asked for and given. One thing we most earnestly trust, and that is that the old P. & O. will retain the contract. Though 'business is business' still there ought to be enough gratitude left in British merchants' minds to so far override that condemnably selfish axiom as to give a preference, at all events, to servants who have done their work for them so well and so faithfully as this magnificent Company.

Every movement of Russian or English men-of-war is now watched, of course, with the greatest interest; so that the departure of the *Modeste* and *Egeria* last night has given rise to much speculation and many rumours. 'The Admiral has received news that war is to be declared to-morrow'—'four Russian ships have slipped over to the China Coast' &c., &c. There is no doubt that the situation is most grave and war more nearly imminent than ever, and that the English Admiral has his squadron,—ship, men and material, in readiness for instant action. British mercantile interests in the China Sea are of great importance and of course our gallant friends the Russians, as soon as a telegraphic message makes them suddenly our enemies, will do their best to damage those interests. The capture, destruction, or imprisonment in neutral ports of every Russian vessel now at large, of course every Englishman must recognize as inevitable, but that they will do a certain amount of damage before they are got rid of is equally so. Perhaps the best estimate of this 'certain amount' is to be found in the 'war risk' now charged on marine policies of Insurance in England—half-a-crown per cent!

From China we continue to receive accounts more and more horrible and heart-rending of the progress of the famine. The stricken districts are literally bare of food and the people are become cannibals; and men are killed for the little dreadful sustenance remaining on their almost fleshless bones. Around these districts food gets scarcer and scarcer, as those who can do so, drag themselves from the places where there is absolutely no food, to those where there is a little. Pestilence, in the form of typhus fever, is also slaying the people by thousands and actual depopulation of large portions of the North and North West is the only end that can be looked for. We read in history, ancient or modern, of no such famine. A hundred and thirty millions of people are suffering, in greater or less degree, from absolute starvation to severe privation. Trade is dead; money appears to have vanished from the country; the Government awakes to its duty too late to help and private charity stands appalled before such a calamity, with its mite in its hand that cannot give a single meal a piece to a hundredth part of the sufferers. Such are the consequences of despotism, neglect and misrule.

We hear that the *Shanghai Evening Courier* has changed hands, and is to be run as a daily morning paper. The journal is said to have been bought by Mr. Drummond, a barrister, in Chinese interest and the price paid for it is stated to have been twelve thousand taels. It is quite time that the *North China Herald* had some intelligent opposition; it has itself been very sleepy for a long time and badly required a stimulus.

The second performance of *Atchi* and *Trial by Jury*, on the 13th inst., for the benefit of the General Hospital, completely justified all that we wrote last week. Every one played and sang their part with more confidence, and many little roughnesses of detail were smoothed away. Company, orchestra, audience, were all in perfect accord, and the performance of both pieces showed an advance. Notably may be singled out Mr. Hay's acting of the valet's part in the first piece, in which he completely changed his reading, to the manifest improvement of the general effect, with which his first, in which he followed the stage directions, was quite incongruous. Mr. Pearson, on the other hand, in *Trial by Jury*, persisted in acting his part in his own way, and again leaving the bench for the footlights as on the previous occasion, in opposition to precedent and to all his critics. Mr. Pearson is an actor and musician of some experience, and even though against a *consensus* of objection, has of course a perfectly good right to maintain his own reading, if he likes; but as a matter of fact, it was remarked on Saturday that his voice was heard from the very back of the house quite distinctly, when he was singing from the bench; whereas it was blurred and indistinct, in his patter song, when he came down to the lights. We understand, of course, the special reasons which may have induced him, here, to adhere to his first reading; but Mr. Pearson is too good an actor not to appreciate the truth that the *Judge's* part should be played with more dignity and when he repeats it elsewhere, no doubt he will alter his reading.

In another column will be found the entries for the First Meeting of the new Racing Association, the Yokohama Jockey Club. We are sorry to remark that native-owned ponies are conspicuous by their absence; so much more interest was given to the last Association Meeting by their competition, that we were looking forward to welcoming some more of his Majesty's stud on our course. We hear that some dissensions in the Imperial stable are the cause of their absence on this occasion, and perhaps the absence of their foreign trainer has something to do with it. We must live in hopes of seeing them come out in the autumn.

By far the most remarkable event of the week has been the publication, by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, of a letter from Iwasaki, Chief Director of the *Mitsui Bishi* Company, of which we give a translation below, taken, by permission, from the columns of the *Japan Gazette* :—

"During many years we have carried on our business in the face of great trouble and difficulty. We have been successful in causing the removal from Japanese waters of the vessels of both the Pacific Mail and Peninsular and Oriental Companies. We are always desirous to extend our business; but times are not good, and things are not as we should wish them to be. But, this notwithstanding, we cannot shirk our responsibility, nor make little of the desires of our fellow countrymen. This is how matters stand. Nothing will abate our zeal for the promotion of national navigation. The Rising Sun flag shall soon float on the Pacific; and lines of Japanese mail steamers shall circumnavigate the world. Of this we have already assured our friends. Still, a great difficulty impedes our progress; and will do us much injury. As the prosperity or adversity of our Company is not merely a question concerning ourselves individually, but also vitally affects the public, it is to their interest to protect and foster our enterprise. By doing so they will promote the welfare of the country and their families. To this we wish to direct your attention.

"Since we opened the Shanghai line, we have sustained continual loss; but thanks to the kind encouragement and aid afforded us by the Government, we are not discouraged, and persevere in our endeavours to promote, as far as we can, the public weal. At the present day it does not appear as if we could continue much longer, for the following reasons. We lost 72,000 yen during the months of December January and Feb., last. This means a loss of 300,000 yen *per annum*. Nor is this all. The Hakodate line entailed a loss upon us of 14,000 yen, and that of Koki 3,130 yen, per month, during the same two months. And we derive no profit from the other lines.

"When the civil war broke out last year, our vessels were chartered by the War Department for the public service, to the great inconvenience of private shippers of goods, and consequent falling off in the commerce of the country. Then, as was our duty, we raised a loan of one million yen, with which we purchased steam vessels from foreigners to supply the demand of the public, to whose convenience we thus ministered. And when the war was over, there was no freight for these vessels, which are laid up in great numbers. So we must expect to undergo considerable loss, which we can only hope to recover by one *coup*.

"The Osaka-Hakodate line is a very important one. During the winter season it was temporarily closed; but it will be re-opened about the middle of April. Now, it happens that people on the coast are in the habit of sending their goods in junks, little appreciating the accidents which are likely to occur; and, thus this line may also turn out a source of loss to us. Regardless of this, however, we must open it.

"As regards the Shanghai line, we were subject to serious competition; since the cessation of which no reform has been made; and we shall shortly have to raise freights to a proper point. Nothing but an extraordinarily high rate of freight can ensure us against loss.

"From the above, it will be seen that we are in a position of great difficulty and grave responsibility. What then is the best way to fulfil what our countrymen require of us? It is this. We must decrease our expenditure, and we and those associated with us must proceed with all caution in our difficulties and embarrassment. Now is the time to try the wit and capability of the members of our Company. We will entirely change our system, and take the most strenuous measures for the protection and preservation of our business. If we succeed not, we will offer ourselves a sacrifice to public and private welfare. An old adage says that no demon can stop the progress of him who has sternly set his heart on the accomplishment of his object. Nothing is difficult to a high-spirited man. What our associates require is merely courage. If any one can suggest a good method of overcoming present difficulties, we shall be obliged to him. Meanwhile we repeat that the prosperity or decay of our business is matter of grave concern to our country and its people."

This Report, for—though unaccompanied, as it by should be, any properly drawn-up, and duly authenticated accounts—a Report we must call it, is of too important a nature to receive more than quotation in this column, usually dedicated to gossip. We pay due attention to it elsewhere, but we can hardly avoid recording here a threat that we may possibly soon be left without regular means of communication with other parts of Japan and China.

In our last we mentioned the predictions of several old friends of ours in the Marine Battalion which left us a few years ago: we

notice now in the home papers that Dr. Orton of the 10th Regt, has been made Surgeon-Major and is appointed to the charge of the medical service on the West Coast of Africa, having his headquarters at Sierra Leone. Popular prejudice is so set against this settlement, that few, perhaps, would be inclined to congratulate Dr. Orton very fervently on his appointment: but we have known men—and not lunatics—who have asserted that Sierra Leone is much maligned in the matter of climate,—that if people would only take ordinary precautions, they would be all right; but that, in fact, as the Irishman said of his Calcutta friends:—'they ate, an' they dhrink, an' they die—an' thin, they wr-rite home an' say the climate does n't agree wid 'em.'

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction. (Unanswered.) B. A.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat; the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium temulentum* or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineæ*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions. R. N.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XVI. RETRIBUTION.

AT sunset Ishikawa left Kiyoto and set his face resolutely towards Fushimi. If his inability to forecast all the circumstances of his undertaking had caused him a moment's uneasiness in the quiet of his home, his feet had scarcely crossed the threshold before his old friends, self-reliance and unflinching courage, came back stoutly to their places, and whispered rebukes to his late faintness. Angry and grieved that he should have suffered Chiyo's disquiet to betray him into ill-omened and unnecessary words, he now burned with impatience to carry her the news of successful achievement, and this feeling, added to the great interests that depended on his enterprise, developed such a fullness of resolute energy as had perhaps never accompanied him in any of his previous adventures.

It is worthy of note that he did not give a second's thought to what most men of his time would have contemplated with the gravest apprehension. The story of the censor's miraculous properties had long passed into a household tradition. That its cry had saved its owner's life on two occasions was now a matter of history: once when the boatman Yojihei had almost stretched out his hand to poison the sleeping Regent, and again when another moment would have imprisoned Taiko in the hold of a sinking ship. Opposed to such an adversary, disloyalty, even were it sufficiently adroit to surmount all other difficulties, could not surely hope for success, and yet the abstraction of this very censor was the object of Goyemon's undertaking. If he was sufficiently credulous to attribute a controlling virtue to the crimson brocade he carried in his bosom, his superstition must assuredly have found something disquieting in the encounter of these supernatural influences, but it seems much more probable that, while obedient to certain forms which helped

to enhance the value of his services, he in reality derided his porcelain enemy as much as he despised his silken ally, and would have laid a naked hand or a brocade envelope on the sacred censer with equal indifference.

The castle at Fushimi was surrounded by a double line of moats. Of these, the inner was in the shape of two equal concentric ellipses with their long axes crossing each other at right angles, but the outer was irregular, sometimes following the configuration of the ground, sometimes the freak of the engineer, and at one part of its windings, it had been widened out to the base of a little hill sparsely wooded, at the foot of whose steep slope the waters of the fosse formed a miniature lake, bathing also the pillars of a lofty barbican that stood at the distance of a drawbridge from the scarp. Just opposite this barbican, the inner moat presented one of its salient points, and since the traces of the two enclosures were not mutually adapted, it so happened that they approached each other closest at this spot.

It was here that Goyemon elected to commence his enterprise. From the summit of a pine that crowned the hill, he was able to examine the ground between the two lines of battlements, but the darkness—for the moon was old and the sky clouded—prevented him from discerning more than the dusky mass of the huge wall forming the scarp of the inner moat. He succeeded however in assuring himself that the drawbridge was up and the barbican unoccupied.

Threading his way through an entanglement of azalea bushes and bamboo grass, he reached the counterscarp—here scarcely raised above the water's level—and then, taking off his clothes, he tied them, together with his swords and the rest of his apparatus, into a bundle, which he placed in the cavity of his large, mushroom-shaped hat. This he launched like a boat on the fosse, pushing it before him, and sometimes wading, sometimes swimming, soon reached the foot of the barbican.

His object was to lie concealed in the tower, and take advantage of an interval between the rounds of the watch to effect the scaling of the scarp and the gate beyond the drawbridge. But it seemed impossible that he could ever climb into the barbican, for the huge wooden posts that supported it, were square, sharp-edged and overgrown with slippery mosses, while the lowest girder was fully ten feet above his head. At one corner, however, the water was sufficiently shallow to afford a footing, and planting himself firmly, he adjusted the grappler attached to his silk line, and slung it with marvellous dexterity through the oaken bars of the barbican gallery. Falling within, their own weight released the iron fingers, so that when the grappler was drawn back, it clutched the bars firmly inside, and Goyemon, with his dirk between his teeth, ascended the rope, cut himself a passage through the bars and drew up his bundle after him.

He now commanded the whole enclosure, and could even see the lights in the part of the castle occupied by the Regent.

At midnight the watch passed. From that time he might reasonably count on two hours of undisturbed solitude. Long as the interval was, however, experience told him that unless some happy accident facilitated the ascent of the inner scarp, but a very brief space would separate him from detection at the moment of crossing its battlements. The utmost despatch therefore was essential.

But here a grave difficulty occurred. In lowering his hat and its freight a second time to the water, he discovered that only a very few feet of slack remained in his hand, and since, in order to release the rope from the bars after descent, it would be necessary to double it and slide down with both ends hanging free below, he saw plainly that the fosse could only be reached by a drop, formidable and perhaps disabling in its results. Nevertheless he did not hesitate an instant, for the fact that this peril was due to his own improvidence made him almost impatient to encounter it. Choosing a spot where he believed the water to be deepest, he slid rapidly down, and holding the grappler firmly, let go the other end of the rope.

He rose unhurt to the surface, but the stillness of the summer night was so disturbed by the splash of his fall, that prudence obliged him to wait some time before proceeding with his enterprise. It was hardly possible, he thought, that observation could be entirely unattracted, and scarcely, in truth, had he swum to his old standing-place, when a sound of voices reached his ear, and lights began to move across the loop-holes of the battlements.

It was not too late to recross the moat, had such an idea

occurred to him, but the habit of his nature made device or daring easier than retreat. Crouching therefore behind the barbican pillars, he smiled as he marked how the pitchy gloom shortened and blurred the beams of the lanterns. So little disturbed, indeed was his accuracy of observation, that before the bars of the gate opposite the barbican were drawn back, he was able to be certain of finding himself beyond the circle of light.

Four soldiers of the guard stood peering across the water, so close that their features were almost distinguishable. But their scrutiny was not very keen, for seeing nothing, they were apparently persuaded there was nothing to be seen, and three of them had already repassed the gate, when the fourth, lowering his lantern beside the buttress of the bridge, recalled his comrades excitedly.

The water was still plashing lightly against the stones of the scarp.

Then for the first time Goyemon turned his head towards the hither side of the moat; not yet, however, despairing, for he said to himself:—"Among three who have not been sagacious enough to observe, there will surely be some too sagacious to believe."

And he was right. Two of the soldiers proposed to lower the drawbridge and visit the barbican, while two scoffed at the idea and refused to give any assistance. At last they compromised the matter, agreeing to return to the guard-room by a path that wound along the face of the rampart; the result of this patrol to determine which pair should come back to bar the gate.

Long before the issue of this arrangement, Goyemon was standing up to his neck in the water of the second fosse close under the counterscarp. From the very verge of failure, he had suddenly passed almost to the certainty of success, for not only had an accident opened the gate for him, but he now made an unexpected and most opportune discovery. A scaffolding had been erected for the purpose, apparently, of repairing the inner battlements. Its feet sprang from a point half way up the scarp, and its long timbers afforded an easy solution of a very serious difficulty—the scaling of the battlement eaves.

Whatever courageous skill Ishikawa had shown in the conduct of his enterprise up to this point, was now marred by an act of unfruitful and incredible recklessness, for when he reached the grounds immediately outside the Regent's apartments, he seated himself on a rock beyond the shadow of any tree or hill, and remained for nearly an hour, listless and inert. He forgot his position, forgot his purpose; forgot the dangers he had just surmounted and those he was about to encounter, and there, in the castle garden, within arm's length of discovery and death, while the rising moon, fragile and pallid, hid herself shyly in the clouds' recesses, and the night wind stirred the melancholy willows, the memory of Chiyo as he had last beheld her, visited him like a whisper from the land of spirits. He saw her, the sunbeam that brightened life into a jewel, the angel that made fidelity a truth; saw her sweet face so close, so life-like, that he had almost stretched out his hand to touch it, when slowly and regretfully it faded and vanished into a darkness from which he knew it could never return: vanished like the impress of a leaf on a stream, and in its place a deep, inviolable stillness, a stillness unlike anything this man of nerve and action had ever before felt or fancied, crept up and isolated him from existence and reality. He had no consciousness of anything near at hand: castle and rampart, sword and shrubbery disappeared from about him, and all his senses were absorbed into an illimitable distance, stretching farther and farther away as he contemplated it, until at last, in the intensity of his gaze, forest cloud and mountain seemed to start into a monstrous rigidity, mocking the soft moonlight and embodying the first fear that had ever stayed his pulses.

There is a fable that tells of a ghastly atmosphere hanging on the horizon of time; a dank atmosphere heavy with vapours of death and decay, and clinging so densely about the throne of fate that her hands sometimes by hazard waft a portion towards the victim she beckons, and forthwith, at the touch of this enchanted air, his senses sinking into a mystery of melancholy, voices of love are changed to sighs of sadness, and loveliness looks at him through tears of loss. And there is also another and a brighter legend, which teaches that there are moments on the confines of existence, when like a smile breaking over the face of a child in slumber, some consciousness of coming release stirs and quickens the soul into such a fine sensibility that it gathers to itself

all the beautiful and sinless retrospects of life, and weaves them into a vision, mystic, many-hued, fair and attractive to our immortal sympathies, but wrapping all that is mortal in a mist of miraculous and ineffable sadness.

The condition of our intelligence must be largely modified before we can determine how much of truth or fancy these fables enfold, for they point to a phase never twice visiting the same existence, and so far beyond the reach of human conception or understanding, that no language of man has ever pictured, or will ever picture, its faintest outline. It would seem as though, leaning over the brink of time, we discover, reflected far down in the depths of eternity, an image of the past, shadowy but unmistakeable as the features of a dead friend seen across the cerement that half hides, half defines them; and even while we gaze, the fathomless infinity of the medium confuses and stuns our senses, till the image sinks out of sight, and our hopes and designs become irrevocable portions of the period it represented.

Roused from his reverie by the crowing of the castle gamecocks, Goyemon painfully struggled back to the realities of the present. He laughed as he marked how long the moon had been his own and the Regent's only watcher; and rising from his seat, stole stealthily round to the most southerly angle of the building before him. Passing under the eaves, he found that the rain-doors were of great strength, but to facilitate their change of direction from face to face of the verandah, the outer edge of the groove in which they travelled, had been removed through half the length of a shutter on either side of the corner. It was only necessary, therefore, to cut away the remaining half, and the shutter would become removeable from without, provided it was not held by some of the bars or bolts with which these more accessible points were generally provided. In this case, Goyemon's good-fortune befriended him, or perhaps his experience enabled him to make a happy selection, for when his dirk, strongly and skilfully wielded, laid bare the bottom of the groove, the shutter came away in his hands without any difficulty.

He found himself in a long, sombre verandah, separated by a balustrade from a corridor, matted and bounded on its inner side by a series of doors with wide lacquer margins and pictorial panels. These were not fastened, and when Goyemon passed through, he saw that his calculations had guided him perfectly, for into the space where he now stood, projected a raised threshold, overhung by bamboo blinds, through which the objects within were faintly discernible in the light of two night-lamps. This was the threshold of the Regent's sleeping chamber.

It was then that Goyemon showed how little the Lapwing-censer's miraculous attributes disturbed him, for only hesitating long enough to accustom his eyes to the dim light, he drew one of the blinds forward, and glided behind it with the tabard still folded in his bosom.

Taiko was sleeping quietly, but the heavy breathing of the guards was audible from the rooms beyond.

Goyemon took up one of the lamps, trimmed it and walked deliberately over to the Regent's side. A tripod of embossed-red lacquer stood near the edge of the silk coverlet. Its lower shelf supported a jade vase containing two half opened lotus flowers, and its upper, a porcelain censer, upon which a Lapwing with unfurled wings was in the act of alighting.

Whether imagination offered an involuntary tribute to the modeller's exquisite art, or the tremulous flicker of the taper imparted a quiver of vitality to the bird's plumage, it seemed to Goyemon, as he gazed, that the Lapwing gradually changed its aspect of incipient repose for one of growing disquiet. It raised itself slowly on its long legs, its wings unfolded wider and wider, the feathers of its crest stirred, and already its throat began to be dilated by the note of alarm, when the folds of the silk tabard fell rustling around it, and Goyemon muffling it in ply after ply of the thick brocade, transferred it rapidly to his bosom.

Then, as if to atone for this transient perturbation, he moved a lantern close to the Regent's couch and stood quietly contemplating Taiko's face. It may well be that the reflections which engrossed his mind at that moment were the secret agents of fate, aided by his own inimitable recklessness. Errand-boy, sandal-bearer, Prime Minister and Regent: how small was the marvel of this sleeper's greatness compared with the unparalleled littleness that had preceded it! Could success then so completely erase the past from the world's memory that men saw nothing in this vulgar sunshine but its brilliancy? If it were indeed so,

what limit need be set to the sequel of this night's adventure? With the dignity he was about to win, with the riches he already possessed, with the faculties that had hitherto made failure impossible, might he not reasonably hope to reach even farther than this upstart, whose life the swimming of a fosse and the scaling of a battlement placed at a robber's mercy? Even as a porcelain censer separated Hidetsugu from the Regency, so the three sacred insignia alone stood between the Emperor's throne and any noble of his court. The mystic red jewel, the mirror of the goddess Izanami, and the sword that Susano-O drew from the tail of the Hydra, had no more ability to guarantee themselves against removal from the Imperial fane than this china bird to preserve itself on its lacquer tripod.

Looking down from the pinnacle of these lofty conceptions on the contemptible features of the sleeping Regent, Goyemon, stirred by mirthful disdain, laughed aloud as he turned and passed outside the bamboo blinds. There, deprived suddenly of the light, he stretched out his arms and groped his way across the space that separated him from the corridor, but even as he touched the cedar doors, he felt his wrist encircled by a powerful grasp.

Something in the contact of the hand that held his, told him its action was in great part accidental. Evidently the encounter was equally unexpected on both sides, and everything depended on anticipating his adversary. Instead, therefore, of attempting to release his wrist, he bent forward, and with an accuracy marvellous under the circumstances, clutched his opponent's throat, at the same time pushing him backwards into the corridor.

Up to that moment, neither of the men had uttered a sound, but now a hoarse groan disturbed the silence, as the life of the one was slowly crushed out by the iron grip of the other. Across the corridor, then to the right along the balustrade, down the steps one by one into the verandah, and again to the left towards the open corner, pace by pace the two passed, Goyemon half pushing, half carrying his antagonist, whose weight became every moment heavier in his hands.

Nothing could have furnished a better example of Ishikawa's implicit confidence in his own strength, than the fact that, the moment his fingers had fairly encircled his adversary's throat, he determined how to dispose of the dead body. It should be thrown over the battlements, for if left in the grounds, its discovery might abridge the time necessary for escape.

A slender stream of moonlight was flowing in through the displaced door, and as its silvery waves fell on the face of the dying man, they seemed, like the touch of some magical elixir, to change his distorted features into the lineaments of an old, old friend. Time and sorrow had whitened his head and furrowed his brow, but there, beyond the possibility of doubt or mistake, were the eyes that for many a year past had looked reproaches through dream and reverie, the lips that had whispered curses in the ear of conscience.

Goyemon, recognizing Momoji Sandayu, relaxed his hold and hid his face with a cry of horror and remorse. Benevolence requited by the darkest treachery, hospitality repaid by robbery and murder, fair friendship marred by foul dishonour; these were the witnesses that rose up at that moment of supreme pain, and seared their testimony in letters of fire on his brain. Had the Regent's guards sprung upon him then, he would have yielded without a struggle or a sigh, but his action had been too silent and too quick, to disturb the careless soldiers' repose. The road to escape still lay open and easy.

He rose to his feet—for he had kneeled beside the body of his victim—and with averted face, stepped towards the open door. But the burthen of his regret was too heavy to permit successful flight. At the instant of descending into the garden he was seized by an uncontrollable desire to assure himself of Sir Momoji's condition. He turned back, and bending over the body, found, not the discoloured features of death, but Sir Momoji's eyes fixed painfully on his own.

The two men gazed at each other for a moment in silence, and then the knight, all his forces restored by the sight of his mortal enemy, threw himself forward and encircled Goyemon's knees in an embrace of desperate energy.

Though he carried in his girdle an immediate means of release, Goyemon, without touching his swords, stooped down and sought to unlock Sir Momoji's fingers, but the old knight, knowing well the enormous strength he had to deal with, twisted and writhed so as to elude his opponent's grasp, and now set himself to shout loudly for aid. Then Goyemon

THE JAPAN TIMES LAW REPORTS. No. III.

IN H. B. M's. COURT AT KANAGAWA.

Before H. S. WILKINSON Esq. Acting Law Secretary
and a JURY.

THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

v.
F. A. COPE AND W. P. MITCHELL.

1878 } THIS was a suit promoted by the Japanese
Feb. 28. } Government to recover possession of a piece
of land held by the defendants as portion of lot 95; but
which was alleged by the plaintiffs to be wrongly held by
them.

The defendant Cope, by his answer, averred that the defendants were grantees of the piece of land in question under a title-deed granted by the plaintiffs and dated 29th January 1862, and further pleaded that since the said grant, this lot of land had been frequently sold and resold, with the knowledge and consent of plaintiffs, and that such transfer had been admitted and registered by them in the land office of the *Kencho*.

Mr. Kirkwood for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Cope in person.

Captain Purvis holding a power of attorney for the defendant Mitchell.

Owing to the difficulty found by the Court in determining the points in dispute, as on the pleadings the parties were not at issue, the petitions and answers were abandoned, and the parties went to trial on the following admissions and issues.

Admission 1.—It is admitted that a lease of lot No. 95, in the foreign concession at Yokohama, was given by the assignors of the defendants on the 29th day of January, 1862, and that the defendants are now in possession of said lot under said lease.

Issue 1.—It is alleged by the plaintiff and denied by the defendant that the portion of the ground marked A. in the plan annexed to the petition was not part of the ground demised by the said lease.

Admission 2.—It is admitted that the defendants are now in possession of lot No. 95, as marked in the said plan, and the portion marked A. in the said plan.

Issue 2.—It is alleged by the defendants and denied by the plaintiff that the defendants and the assignors of the defendants have been in undisturbed possession of the said piece of ground marked A. on the said plan from the 29th January, 1862, until the commencement of this suit, and that the alleged cause of action did not accrue within twelve years before this suit.

Issue 3.—It is alleged by the plaintiff and denied by the defendants that in the year 1875 the plaintiff Government made an entry upon the said portion of land marked A and thereby took possession of the same.

Admission 3.—It is admitted that since the first of January, 1865, up to the commencement of this suit, the defendants and the assignors of the defendants have been in undisturbed possession of the said portion of ground marked A in the said plan.

Issue 4.—It is alleged as a matter of law by the plaintiff and denied by the defendants, that even although the said alleged cause of action may not have occurred within twelve years before this suit, the plaintiff is nevertheless not debarred by the lapse of time from recovering in this suit.

Issue 5.—That in January, 1876, and long prior thereto, the portion of ground marked lot No. 95 on the said plan and the portion of ground marked A on the said plan were generally reported to be included in and from lot 95 in the foreign Concession of Yokohama, and were known by the plaintiff Government to be so reported, and the defendants in the month of January 1875 purchased the said lot 95, in the belief that the said lot included as well the portion marked A as the portion marked lot 95 on the said plan; and, in consequence of such belief paid more for the said lot than they would otherwise have paid; and possession of the said portion of ground marked A was given to the defendants by the vendors of the said lot in pursuance of such sale, and the plaintiff well knew that such possession was given.

Admission 4.—It is admitted that it is a condition of the said lease that every transfer of the said lot should be re-

ported to the plaintiff Government for the registration of the transaction. That the said lot was purchased by the defendants in the month of January, 1875, and transferred to them on the 6th of February, 1875, and that the transfer was so reported and duly registered by the plaintiff on the 10th of February 1875.

Admission 5.—That at the time of the transfer of the said lot to the defendants there was no visible boundary between the portion of ground marked lot 95 on the said plan and the portion of ground marked A on the said plan, and that there was then standing on the said portion of ground marked A a stone godown of considerable value.

Admission 6.—It is admitted that as well the portion of ground marked No. 95 on the said plan, as the portion marked A on the said plan, so far as the defendants are entitled to the possession of the same, are held by the defendants from the plaintiff Government, and so much of the same (if any) as the defendants are not entitled to, ought to be delivered up to the plaintiff.

Issue 6.—It is alleged by the plaintiff and denied by the defendants that the plaintiff had not, prior to the month of March, 1875, any knowledge that the portion of ground marked A on the said plan was in the possession of the defendants, or that there was at the time of such sale to the defendants no visible boundary between the portion of ground marked lot 95 on the said plan and the portion of ground A on the said plan or that any buildings were then erected thereon.

Admission 7.—It is admitted that the lot now in the occupation of the defendants, including the portion marked A, contains 535 *tsubo* and that in the title-deed it is described as 401.

It appeared by the evidence, that the official map of the Settlement was lost, when the *Kencho* was destroyed by fire in 1866. Some of the account books containing the accounts of rent paid for the land, had been saved; and copies of account books which had been kept at the Tobe office of the *Kencho*, were put in. These copies were made from the originals in 1866 by officers of the *Kencho*; the originals could not be traced; they had been sent to the office of the *Gaimusho* in Tokio, but were now missing. The copies were admitted, on the ground that they were copies of public records made by officers in the execution of their duty.

From these accounts, and from evidence produced on their behalf, the plaintiffs sought to show that the land on which the Settlement of Yokohama is now built, was appropriated to the use of foreigners in the year 1859, that in that year, the said land was surveyed and portioned out into lots, that the lot 95 and the lots 94, 93, 92 and 91 abutting thereto on the south side were laid out with frontages of equal length of 20 *ken* each and that this arrangement of the lots remained unchanged. That in the year 1862, when the lot 95 was first granted to Mr. Elmstone, it contained 401 *tsubo*, and that the ground rent thereon was 112 *rios*. That in 1859 and up to 1862, there had been a roadway between the lot 95 and lot 76, the adjacent lot on the north side; and that this roadway had been appropriated by one of the predecessors in title of the defendants, and formed the portion of the ground now held by defendants in excess of the extent of the original lot. The mayor of the village of Yokohama, at the time of the forming of the Settlement, and many Japanese who knew the settlement in its early days, spoke to the existence of the road, or pathway as it really was, but they differed very much as to the width of the path, and could not speak with any certainty of the time when the path ceased to be used. The path, even in the earliest days, was overgrown with high grass and reeds and was very little used; from the time that any attention had been paid to the making or repairing of roads in the settlement, none of the witnesses could speak to the existence of any pathway near the locality.

The defendant Cope contended that, from the time of the original grant of the lot in 1862, there had been no road or pathway between lots 95 and 76; that in the latter part of that year, or in the beginning of 1863, there was a house erected on the spot where defendant's godown now stands (this godown is admitted to be on the space where the pathway was said to be) and it was finally admitted by plaintiff's counsel, that the road was closed before April 1863. Many foreigners who had known the Settlement from 1861 were called to prove that they were well ac-

quainted with the lot in question; that they had no recollection of the pathway between the lots 95 and 76. It was also shown that there was originally a racecourse or riding ground adjoining the western extremity of lots 95 to 91, which had been for a long time disused, and the ground thereof incorporated with those lots, with the sanction of the Japanese Government. The title deeds under which he held the lot were put in by defendant Cope. The endorsements of registry on these showed, that at the time of the purchase of the lot by defendants in 1875, the said deeds were left at the land office of the *Kencho* for registration, and the transfer of the lot with the buildings thereon as they then stood was duly registered.

His Honour in charging the jury, put to them sixteen questions for solution: these questions with the finding of the jury thereon were in the following terms:—

Question I.—“Was the whole, or any part, and if so, what part, of the piece of ground marked A in the plan annexed to the petition a portion of the ground described in the title deed of the 29th January 1862, as lot No. 95?”

Answer:—“We find that a piece of ground marked A was a portion of the ground described in the title deed of 29th January 1862 as lot 95, and that such part measured twenty-four feet or four ken, extending from the portion of ground marked lot 95 in the plan, towards lot 76, and also extended to the rear of the lot (now called Homura Road) for one hundred and twenty feet, or twenty ken, such piece being a rectangle of 24 by 120 feet, containing two thousand eight hundred and eighty feet superficial, or eighty tsuobes of ground.”

Question II.—“Is there any part and what part of the portion marked A of the said plan which was not a portion of the ground described in the said title deed as lot 95?”

Answer:—“We find that the space within the ink-line in the above diagram measuring on the respective sides 9 feet and 146 feet, 34 feet, and 30 feet, 24 feet, and 120 feet, (containing say: 55 tsuobes of ground,) forms the portion of A not included in the said title deed as lot No. 95.” (A diagram accompanied this answer.)

Question III.—“When was such part of the piece of ground marked A which was not included in the ground described in the said title deed as lot 95 first included in the lot 95 as now known, and by whom, and was it so included with the knowledge and consent of the plaintiff Government?”

Answer:—“We find that the portion of that part abutting on the Homura Road was incorporated with the lot at the same time that the neighbouring lots (say 91 to 94) were extended to the Homura Road, and that such extension was known to the land officers of the Government. The exact date when the extension took place we cannot say, but we find that it took place after the making of the Homura Road, and that according to the evidence the road was in process of construction in June 1862. We cannot say by whom this portion was incorporated in the lot. We find that such extension took place not later than 1st April, 1863. The remaining portion, abutting on lot 76, was incorporated with the lot at some time prior to the 1st April 1863, for we find on that date Mr. Goble residing in a house which partly stood on this then strip. We find that the portion was included in the lot with the tacit consent of the Japanese Government, but the exact date and name of person incorporating the strip we cannot say. We find that both portions were so incorporated by either Mr. Elmatone or Mr. Stearns.”

Question IV.—“Did the assignor of the defendants build upon the portion marked A on the plan annexed to the petition the building or buildings now standing on that portion in the genuine belief that the whole of the ground upon which such building or buildings was or were erected was his own. If so, describe that building or those buildings?”

Answer:—“We find that the assignor of the defendants did build upon the portion marked A the building now standing on that portion, in the genuine belief that the whole of the ground upon which such building was erected was his own. We find that such building is a stone godown now used as an auction-sale-room by the defendant Cope. We find that the said godown was erected in 1872.”

Question V.—“Was the plaintiff Government or its officers and what officers aware that such building was be-

ing so erected? And if so did the said Government or its officers make any objection to such building?”

Answer:—“We find that the plaintiff Government was fully aware in the year 1870 of a godown already erected on the site of the present auction room; and we also find that on the re-erection of said building in 1872 the plaintiff Government made no objection whatever to said re-erection.”

Question VI.—“Was the plaintiff Government prior to 1872 aware of its rights with regard to the part of the piece of ground marked A not included in lot of ground described on the title deed of 29th January 1862 as lot 95 and if so when?”

Answer:—“We find that the plaintiff Government was aware of its rights with regard to the part of the piece of ground specified in the question at the granting of title deed on 29th January 1862. And they continued in such knowledge up to and until the time when they tacitly allowed the erection of Mr. Goble's dwelling house upon the ground some time prior to the 1st April 1863.”

Question VII.—“Was the whole or the portion of ground marked A in the plan annexed to the petition as well as the portion marked lot 95 on the said plan, in December 1874 and in February 1875 and long prior thereto, and generally reputed to be included in and upon lot 95 in the foreign Concession at Yokohama?”

Answer:—Yes, it was so reputed.

Question VIII.—“If so, were these portions of ground known by the plaintiff Government in December 1874 and February 1875 to be so reputed?”

Answer:—Yes, they were.

Question IX.—“Did the defendants between December 1874 and February 1875 inclusive, purchase lot 95 in the genuine belief that the said lot properly included as well the whole of the portion marked A as the portion marked lot 95 in the said plan.”

Answer:—Yes, they did.

Question X.—“Did the defendants pay a valuable consideration for the said lot? and if so, what consideration?”

Answer:—Yes, they did pay a sum of not less than eleven thousand dollars Mexican and not exceeding thirteen thousand.

Question XI.—“Did the defendants pay more for the said lot by reason of their belief that the whole of the said portion marked A was a proper part of the said lot?”

Answer:—Yes, they did.

Question XII.—“Was possession of the whole of the portion marked A on the said plan annexed to the petition as well as of the portion marked 95 on the said plan given by the vendors to the defendants in pursuance of such sale?”

Answer:—Yes, without doubt.

Question XIII.—“Was the plan of the Settlement of Yokohama purporting to be published in 1870 by order of the Japanese Government, published by order of such Government, and, if so, when?”

Answer:—We find the said plan was published and printed in London by order of the said Government in 1870, and we also find the said plan was sold in Yokohama by their authority in the year 1871.

Question XIV.—“Did such plan induce the belief in the defendants that the whole of part marked A on the said plan was proper portion of lot 95?”

Answer:—Yes, it did.

Question XV.—“Did such plan prevent the legal adviser of the defendants from instituting any inquiries which he otherwise might have instituted as to the existence of any claim by the Government?”

Answer:—Yes, it did.

Rider to answer to question VI:—We find the plaintiff Government was aware of its rights with regard to the part of the piece of ground specified in the question, at the granting of the title deed on the 29th January 1862, and that they continued in such knowledge up to and until the time when they tacitly allowed the erection of Mr. Goble's dwelling house upon the ground some time prior to the 1st April 1863. We consider that plaintiffs abandoned their rights in the said piece of ground at the time of the erection of the dwelling house in 1863.

Question XVI.—“At the time the person or persons incorporated the portion of the piece of ground marked A,

on the said plan not included in the ground described in the said title deed as lot 95, to whom did that piece of ground belong? Was or were the person or persons so incorporating the same aware thereof, or to whom did he or they believe it to belong?

Answer:—The piece of land belonged to the Japanese Government at the time. The person or persons incorporated the said piece; and the land was incorporated with the knowledge of the Government land officers.

On these findings, His Honour left it to either party to move for judgment.

Mr. Cope having moved that judgment might be entered for the defendants, the case came on for argument on the 3rd of April.

Mr. Cope, in support of the motion. The jury have answered 15 out of the 16 questions put to them, in favour of the defendants: as to that one found in favour of plaintiffs, the piece of land referred to by the jury is not the piece of land claimed by plaintiffs in their petition.

Mr. Kirkwood for the plaintiffs. Admitted that he could not have judgment for the whole of the land claimed, but as to the 55 tauboes of ground which forms portion of A, not included in the said title-deed as lot 95, this portion was found by the jury not to have been transferred to the defendants, and for that portion, plaintiffs must have judgment. The defendants at most, are tenants at will to this piece of land, they have no title therein as against their landlord; the equities which restrict the conveyance of lands as between individuals do not apply with the same force against the crown: and the maxim *omnia præsumuntur contra spoliatores* applies. Moreover, the consent of the Government, if consent there was to the transfer of this lot to the defendants, was the act of the land officer only, and there is no finding of the jury, nor is there any evidence to show that that officer had any authority to give consent. A Government is not responsible for the acts of its agents who act beyond their powers. [Story on Contracts p 412.]

Bassett v. Nosworthy, and the cases collected in the notes thereto, in *White and Tudor's Leading Cases in Equity*, Vol. 2 p. 1. do not apply in this case: *Bassett v. Nosworthy* was a case of a *bona fide* purchase in market overt, without notice of encumbrance or equitable title: and all the cases cited and commented upon in the notes thereto, were decisions relating to freehold estates. This case must be governed by the ordinary law of landlord and tenant.

(Mr. H. S. Wilkinson. You have a title-deed granting a lease in perpetuity; what does this constitute?)

Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, Judgment must be for the defendants. It appears to me that the principle of *Teasdale v. Teasdale* Sel. Ch. Ca. 59, as given in *Leading Cases in Equity*, Vol. II, 4th ed. p. 33 applies to this case. I regret that I have not the original to refer to. I do not think it necessary to decide whether Lot 95 is held on a leasehold or a freehold title. I think the principle is the same. The finding of the Jury amounts to this, that the plaintiff Government by its representations induced the defendants to believe that the piece of ground referred to in the answer to the second question put to the Jury was parcel of lot 95, and that the defendants purchased it *bona fide* and for valuable consideration in that belief; and I think the plaintiff Government cannot now say that it is not part of lot 95. Mr. Kirkwood says that although the jury have found that the defendants purchased lot 95 in the genuine belief that the said lot properly included, as well as the whole of the portion marked A, the portion claimed by the plaintiff as the portion marked lot 95 in the plan on the plaintiff's portion, they did not find that the defendants believed that the portion marked A or so much of it as is included in the answer to question 2 was held on the same tenure as the lot 95 in the title deed. I think however that that is the inference to be drawn from their answers. I think I am at liberty to draw this inference and I do draw it.

Having come to this conclusion it is not necessary to consider the defence on the ground of estoppel.

Judgment for the defendants.

IN H. B. M.'s COURT FOR KANAGAWA.

Before H. S. WILKINSON ESQ. ACTING LAW SECRETARY.

HART versus HERHAUSEN.

On the 9th of March 1878 the plaintiff obtained a decree in this court, ordering defendant to pay immediately to the plaintiff the amount of a judgment of H. B. M.'s Court at Hiogo, delivered on the 10th of May 1875 in favour of the plaintiff for \$11,176.70 in a cause entitled "*Hart v. Abell and Herhausen*." The amount not having been paid, plaintiff took out a judgment summons under Sections 129—131 of the rules of H. B. M.'s Supreme Court for China and Japan. The material parts of the summons were:—

"You are hereby commanded in Her Majesty's name to appear personally before this Court, * * * to be examined respecting your ability to make the payment directed, and as to the circumstances under which you contracted this debt or incurred the liability in respect of which payment of the said sum of \$11,376.70 was directed to be made, and as to the means or expectation you then had of paying the debt or discharging the liability, and as to any disposal you may have made of any property previously or subsequent to the date of the said judgment."

The defendant appeared to the summons.

Mr. Kirkwood for the defendant:—This summons must be amended by striking out the words "and as to the circumstances under which you contracted this debt or incurred the liability in respect of which payment of the said sum of \$11,376.70 was directed to be made and as to the means or expectation you then had of paying the debt or discharging the liability," and also by striking out the words "previously or."

He contended that as the rules of Court were issued, and the form of summons framed under them before the Debtors' Act of 1869 was passed; this form of summons is no longer available for the purpose for which it was intended. The Debtors' Act abolished imprisonment for debt, except (under Section 5 of that Act) in the particular cases of defaults made in the payment of money under an order of a Court or Judge, where it is proved that the "person making default, has or has had since the date of the order or judgment the means to pay the sum in respect of which he has made default, and has refused or neglected, or refuses or neglects to pay the same." The right to enquire into the circumstances under which the debt was contracted can no longer be sustained, as they can have no bearing upon the defendant's ability to satisfy the judgment: and can only be sought for the purpose of a committal. If a committal was desired, proceedings must be taken in a very different manner, viz. under part II of the Debtors' Act, which relates to offences by fraudulent debtors.

Mr. Litchfield for the plaintiff:—The objection raised for the defence is as the act of "one who jumps before he comes to the stile:" when an application is made for a committal, it will be time to consider the effect of the Debtors' Act upon the Order in Council of 1865. The circumstances under which a debt is contracted and the disposal by the defendant of the proceeds of the transaction upon which the cause of action is founded, may be very material for the purpose of discovering the defendant's ability to meet the judgment. The Order in Council of 1865 was issued expressly for the governance of British subjects in China and Japan, and is in force until expressly repealed. It is not like an Act of parliament. The Debtors' Act of 1869 does not expressly repeal the Order in Council, and the provisions thereof are in force.

March 27th.—Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, read the following judgment.—

This is an application to strike out certain words from a Judgment Debtor's Summons, issued under Rules 129 and 130 of the Rules framed under the China and Japan Order in Council, 1865. The material part of the summons, as issued, was as follows: [he then read the Summons.]

The words "and as to the means or expectation you then had of paying the debt or discharging the liability" have been struck out by consent; and the words which it is sought to have struck out are "and as to the circumstances under which you contracted this debt or incurred the liability, in respect of which payment of the said sum of \$11,376.70 was directed to be made," and the words "previously or."

As to the first clause which it is sought to have struck out, it is admitted that it is strictly in accordance with the

3rd paragraph of Rule 130; but it is contended by Mr. Kirkwood, for the judgment debtor, that that part of the Rule has been superseded by the Debtors' Act, 1869, and that the debtor can be examined only as to the means he has or has had since the date of the judgment to pay the amount due upon the judgment. Mr. Litchfield, for the judgment creditor, contends that the words ought not to be struck out, because the circumstances under which a debt was contracted are material to show the present ability of the debtor to pay the debt. But I am of opinion that if the Debtors' Act applies to the case, this contention cannot be sustained. The summons ought to contain only a statement of the facts in issue, and not of the facts relevant to the facts in issue, and the only facts in issue, under the Debtors' Act are whether the debtor now has the means to pay, or whether he has had the means since the date of the judgment. Without deciding whether the facts referred to in the clause in question are or are not relevant to the issue: if the Debtors' Act supersedes the Rules, the clause must be struck out.

But Mr. Kirkwood's argument rests upon the assumption that the Debtors' Act, being a statute, overrides the rules framed under the Order in Council. Is this a correct assumption? I am of opinion that it is not. I had occasion in the case of "*Iwasaki v. Colomb*," June 28th, 1877, to consider the law affecting Her Majesty's Jurisdiction over British subjects in this country, and I have seen no reason to change the view I then took. It is unnecessary that I should repeat all I then said. The view I take may, with reference to the question now under consideration, be shortly stated thus. According to the Treaty this case is governed by British law. What that British law is, depends on the provision Parliament of the United Kingdom may have made on the subject; Parliament has made a provision on the subject in the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1843, and the effect of that provision is that Her Majesty's subjects residing here are subject to such laws as Her Majesty in Council may impose, to the same extent as persons residing in one of Her Majesty's Crown colonies. In making such laws, Her Majesty in Council may, subject to the controlling power of Parliament, make any laws she pleases, and such laws, except where Parliament otherwise provides, (if there be other exceptions it is unnecessary here to notice them), need not be in conformity with the law of England on the same subject. As to the relative force of such laws, and of Acts of Parliament; Parliament has made provision in the Act. 28 and 29 Vict. c. 63, and the effect of that provision is that such laws when repugnant to any Act of Parliament extending by the express words or necessary intendment of that or any other Act of Parliament to the colony to which such laws relate shall be read subject to such act, and shall to the extent of such repugnancy, but not otherwise, be void and inoperative. But as Her Majesty in Council may, in making such laws, make any laws she pleases, she may of course order that

the law of England shall be the law in any particular case and accordingly in the China and Japan Order in Council 1865, in section 5, it is ordered:

"Subject to the other provisions of this order, the civil and criminal jurisdiction aforesaid shall, as far as circumstances admit, be exercised upon the principles of and in conformity with the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, the Statute Law, and other Law for the time being in force in and for England, and with the powers vested in and according to the course of procedure and practice observed by and before Courts of Justice and Justices of the Peace in England, according to their respective jurisdictions and authorities."

So much then of the statute law of England as is by the express words or necessary intendment of any Act of Parliament extended to British Subjects in this country is binding to the exclusion of the Order in Council, and the rest of the statute law of England is binding only so far as it is not repugnant to the express provisions of the Order in Council.

The question then in the present case resolves itself into this: are the provisions of the Debtors' Act 1869 extended by the express words or necessary intendment of any Act of Parliament to Her Majesty's subjects residing in this country? They are not by the express words or necessary intendment of the Act itself; and I know of no other Act under which they are so extended. There is nothing in the Act itself to show that its provisions were intended to extend beyond England. The 2nd section provides that it should not extend to Scotland and Ireland, and it was not till three years later that the principle of the Act was extended to Ireland. There is no decision that I am aware of, available to me, which shows expressly that the Act does not apply to the Crown Colonies, but there is one on the subject of the Bankruptcy Act with which this Act is so intimately connected. The case of *Benecke v. Whittall* (L.R. 2 App., Cas. 602), heard on appeal in the Privy Council, shows incidentally that the ordinary provision of the Bankruptcy Act 1869 did not (in February 1876) extend to Hongkong, but that the Bankruptcy Law then in force in that colony was an Ordinance of 1864 which adopted most of the provisions of the English Bankruptcy Act of 1861. The ordinary provisions of the Bankruptcy Act of 1869 do apply to Her Majesty's Courts in Japan, but that is by force of the Order in Council and not of the Act itself, and I am of opinion that those provisions, as well as the provisions of the Debtors' Act, are to be read subject to the provisions of the Order in Council, and are inoperative so far as they are repugnant to the provisions of the Order in Council. I say the ordinary provisions of the Bankruptcy Act, because there are certain extraordinary provisions which are expressly extended by the Act itself to all British Courts having jurisdiction in bankruptcy. The clause must therefore stand as part of the summons.

As to the words "or previously," Mr. Kirkwood admits that they must stand on the same footing. The application must therefore be refused.

knowing that the end had come, steadied himself against a pillar, and drawing his long sword, faced the coming danger.

At the sound of the blade gliding from its scabbard, he felt the knight's arms tighten convulsively about his knees, but bending down, he said in a low, beseeching voice: "Sir Momoji, my death may hereafter persuade you to pardon me, when you remember that your's would have saved my life."

These were the last words that ever passed between the two men. In another moment, the antechambers had poured out their armed inmates, and the din of contest and confusion echoed through the castle. Goyemon fought recklessly, his sole object being to purchase death from his adversaries, while they on their side were equally anxious to take him alive. It was a terrible and pity-stirring sight to see this solitary man, the arms of his outraged friend thrown about his knees like the iron band of fate, and a score of weapons forming an ever-narrowing circle of menace around him. Had he been free to move, the issue would have been speedy and certain, but held firmly in his place, the few vigorous blows his adversaries ventured near enough to receive, only served to place him beyond the reach of their swords. The result he had hoped to avert arrived. Half a dozen men advancing upon him simultaneously, caught his neck and shoulders with blunt halberds, or entangled long grapples in his clothes, so that dragged forward from above and held back below, after one supreme effort to close with his enemies, he fell heavily to the ground.

Meanwhile those least concerned in the capture, had exerted themselves most to spread the alarm, so that in a short time the noblemen in waiting, the captains of the gates and half the inmates of the castle, some bearing torches and others lanterns, hastened to the scene of disturbance. Taiko himself, though roused from sleep, did not leave his room, but summoning his body guards, took precautions against any sudden attack. Nobody supposed that the captured man was alone in his enterprise, and daybreak found the soldiers' scrutiny of the castle grounds still incomplete.

Goyemon, bound hand and foot and watched by twenty men, was confined in the muster-hall pending examination. The tabard and censor found in his bosom were carried to the Regent, who at once recognized the former to be the one given by himself to Hidetsugu.

It was almost impossible to suppose that the Minister could have quietly suffered the loss of such a rare and precious article, and yet under any hypothesis save that of theft, its possession by the captured man became the basis of strange and unwelcome suspicions. On the other hand, a burglar sufficiently skilful and daring to make his way into the Regent's sleeping room for the sake of a porcelain censor, would not certainly have been incapable of coveting Nobunaga's brocade tabard, and, after all, this man's action might be merely the outcome of an insane longing to get possession, one by one, of the most precious things in the empire. Hoping to be confirmed in this latter supposition, Taiko summoned his Council and demanded their opinions.

All, except Ishida Mitsunari, agreed that this robbery was probably one of a series, and that the tabard had apparently been the first to experience the fate so narrowly escaped by the censor.

Ishida, the subtle, scheming Ishida, made wise by the very considerations that rendered the Regent incredulous, gave it as his opinion, that Goyemon was the emissary of some powerful conspirator, who aimed at nothing less than the Regent's life.

Pressed by his colleagues to explain the grounds of this conviction, he said:—"Every theft aims either at its perpetrator's gain or its sufferer's loss. Now the Lapwing-censor is useless to any but its real owner. It could neither be concealed nor converted into money, if stolen, and therefore I conclude that its abstraction was dictated by the second motive I have mentioned. To understand that motive, it is only necessary to remember that the censor, though valueless to another, is inestimably valuable to the Regent, whose life it has twice saved. Suppose it were no longer by His Highness' side, what then? The robbery, accident has prevented to-night, would surely have been the prelude to an attempted assassination to-morrow. These are the inferences the censor suggests. I pass now to the tabard. It is at once too precious to have been easily stolen, too unique to be safely kept concealed, and of no possible service, as a tabard, to any but a nobleman of the highest rank. It did not therefore pass into this man's hands for its own sake, but was probably lent to him for some specific purpose, and that purpose is, I

believe, explained by the use to which the tabard was applied. Enveloped in its folds, the censor seems to have lost its miraculous properties, and suffered itself to be carried off in silence. It seems to me therefore, that the owner of the tabard is the conspirator under whose orders the captured man acted, and that, though the man himself had no immediate object but the removal of the censor, the ultimate design of the conspiracy was His Highness' death. Possibly," continued Ishida, now addressing Taiko himself, "your Highness finds it difficult to reconcile this theory with the fact, that the tabard so closely resembles the one given by you to the Prime Minister at the time of his investiture, but in the absence of evidence to the contrary, I think it only just to presume that some other nobleman possessed a similar piece of crimson brocade."

By mentioning the brocade and omitting the embroidery of the golden phoenix, Ishida tacitly indicated the impossibility of the presumption he advanced.

The counsellors kneeled with bowed heads, unable to contradict, unwilling to confirm. Some moments passed before Taiko mastered his emotion sufficiently to address them.

"My Lords," he said at last, "I commit the carriage of this affair to your discretion. Steps will of course be taken to ascertain whether Hidetsugu still possesses the tabard I gave him, but as for this thief, you will employ any means in your power to extort a confession of his real motive."

(To be continued in our next)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT TO THE PRODUCTION OF SILK-WORMS' EGGS.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

GOVERNMENT is responsible for giving protection to the people, and the people expect to receive it from the Government; but there is a limit to giving such protection, and if it should interfere with any small matters and go beyond proper limits, protection may result in harm. If, however, Government sees anything which may affect the interests of the country and deems interference necessary, it should act at once.

Silk-worm egg cards, a celebrated production of our country, used to be in former times produced only in certain fixed places, in Uyeda in Shinshu, and in Shimamura in Jôshiu; but since the Restoration, as, the foreign trade in them began to flourish, they having become an article of export, the silk business has extended into other places and the production of the silk-worm eggs has been conducted successfully. Several Companies have been established and managers and agents appointed, and in the 7th year of Meiji, an Association was established at Tokio, where all business connected therewith was conducted; and at the time when the cherry blossoms each year, the managers or their representatives, from all the silk provinces, assemble in Tokio and, selecting a president from amongst themselves, discuss the advantages and disadvantages &c. of the business, for a period of one or two weeks, and adopt then such methods as are decided by the majority of opinion of the members for the business transactions of the year. But no such assembly was, I hear, held last year; this however, we presume, was owing to the South Western complications. But I also hear that it will be held this year.*

But alas, as a few sheets of egg cards were exported at a high price in the beginning of this trade, producers, considering it to be their best business in future, increased in numbers, and produced greater quantities, year by year, which have become gradually inferior in quality, and thus have lost the confidence of foreigners, in consequence of which the price has gradually fallen down, and indeed during the last two or three years, even those of excellent quality have lost their normal value. And if the prices of best or first quality have fallen like this, the prices of second and third may be imagined, and although the middle class maintained their value for a little, the lowest class would not be even accepted, if given without payment. For eggs of such quality would, either exported

* We are informed that this committee will commence its session next week, and will publish the resolutions it arrives at for the coming campaign as soon as possible. [Ed. J.J.]

or employed in the country, result in harm to the silkworm-grower. They have finally had to be, by the decision of the members of the Silk Association, thrown into water or consumed by fire. This has been done now in successive years. But if we consider the object of the producers, it seems almost like that of speculators, who although they sustain loss for successive years, are not willing to give up the business at once. If they lose this year, they wish, indeed expect, to gain twice the amount of the loss next year, and so it goes on year after year, until they may finally find that they meet with the same fate each year, when they would despair and give up. But as these traders are generally men of this stamp, although the assembly may take place this year and all this be argued, it seems to me impossible that this practice would be resisted. Is not therefore a cry of the 'powerful old crane' (Government order) very necessary here now? Unless this is heard, silk, the most important of our productions, will, more or less, have to be destroyed, the labour of the product will be thrown into the bay of Yokohama and thus decrease a portion of our exports. I cannot but regret this for the sake of the country. I therefore heartily wish that producers of silk-worm's eggs should for the future be limited to a certain amount, or by averaging the actual amount that were exported during the past two or three years, settle a fixed amount to be produced next year, and thus regain what we have lost, and also make the silk business, which is the most important of our staple productions, more flourishing in future.

(To this article, a correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* replies as follows:—)

THERE SHOULD NOT BE A LIMIT PUT TO THE PRODUCTION OF SILKWORMS' EGGS.

THE argument to limit the production of silkworms is, I must say, simply for the purposes of profiting producers, and would cause more or less general loss to the country. The quality of the silkworms of our country differs in each province, arising from experience or inexperience, and skilfulness or unskilfulness of the producers. Thus, whatever limit may be put to the quality of production, unless the unskilful producer can be made skilful and the inexperienced made experienced, it is beyond hope that all the silkworms should be of equal quality. The limitation would, I think, tend to deter producers from competition in their work, and to make them work only as others do; because, if the system of limitation be actually carried out, it would follow that, although silkworms' eggs of the best quality would of course be sold at once, even those of bad quality would, although not admired, as there would be no better quality to be got, have to be bought by native and foreign merchants and thus the producers would gain their profit. Although, at first sight, the system of limiting the production may appear to be advantageous to all, and thus equally apportioning the profit, it only ends in giving a profit to a few producers and all the others throughout the country would have to sustain great loss, and finally the reputation of our product would be spoilt. It is a natural and acknowledged fact, that, in all things, if good seed is sown, the product will be proportionately good, but if bad seed is sown, the product will be proportionately bad. The silk manufacturing business in the various provinces is now daily increasing, the Kuwa (mulberry) gardens are being more and more extended and machinery, &c. is being provided. Would it not be a pity if there were now to be a scarcity of the best quality of the silkworms' eggs and thus make it impossible to produce silk of purely good quality? Unless therefore, in any year when we consider 1,000,000 cards of silkworms' eggs, a sufficient and suitable quantity for the use of the whole country, we produce 1,500,000 cards, and employ the best quality picked out from among them, we shall not be able to improve more and more the quality of the silk, which is the most important production of our country. The quality of the silk depends, upon not only the skill of the manufacturers, but upon the quality of the worms. For instance, there is, in my province, one Tanji Umekichi, who at the Exhibition in Austria received a medal of the first class for the silk he produced, as being the best in the world; and besides him, there are several more who produce a similar quality

of silk. This is simply the result of their skill and experience in feeding and rearing the worms. Thus the best plan, in order to make our silk known more and more widely over the world, to increase the demand and make our export trade flourishing, is to produce in large quantities, good and cheap eggs. This would then induce egg hatching to be studious in their work and to emulate each other in producing good eggs, and the silk makers to improve their manufacture and not fail in producing good silk. The silk eggs for exportation to foreign countries ought also not to be limited. If the system of limitation be adopted and 1,500,000 cards be manufactured in the whole country, of which 1,000,000 be taken for the requirements of the country, and the remainder be left for exportation; then if, at this time, foreigners should require to buy 1,000,000 at once, their value would no doubt greatly rise, in which case, our merchants, only seeking for the profits immediately before them, and not considering the requirements of the country, would export over the estimated quantity. This would be the course they would take and it would be impossible to resist it. Should this really happen, the silk manufacturers of our country, would sustain not a little injury therefrom, whereas, when it happens that the egg growers, after having grown a great quantity of silk eggs, unfortunately meet with the loss of throwing them into the water or fire, it is only a temporary injury, and if compared with limiting the manufacture, discouraging emulation in improvement and thus degrading the quality of our silkworm eggs and consequently spoiling the reputation of our silk,—which would be the more important? And again, is not this system of limitation far beyond the province of Governmental interference, and is it not rather near to oppression? I heartily hope that our Government will not agree to the request of such narrow-minded disputants who are in favour of the limiting system, or actually adopt it; for, although limiting the manufacture of the silk egg cards may show a little profit directly, as it would be greatly injurious to the country indirectly, the production should be allowed to go on freely, so as to maintain and advance the public profit in the future.

IS INTERNATIONAL LAW PRACTICABLE IN THIS SELFISH WORLD.

(From the 'Nichi Nichi Shimbun'.)

INTERNATIONAL Law is not Law: it is only improperly called so. Since Grotius formulated its general principles, nearly 250 years have elapsed; and during this period, the countries of Europe have not been destitute of eminent men, who have written upon the subject: but though, at present, we have the works of such eminent men as Wheaton, Kent, Watt, Phillimore, Mill, Bentham, &c. &c. in which are fully explained its principles, still we must say that it only exists in theory, and that we have not seen much of it practised. Though European Governments have, in order to further public interests and profit, despatched ambassadors to each other, and promoted such things as International Exhibitions, International Conferences on War, Telegraphs, Coinage, &c. so that meetings called 'international' are daily increasing in number—still International Law has not yet been looked upon as a law governing all countries, and though, sometimes, by means of a Court of Arbitration, disputes between nations have been adjusted; it is by no means as yet decided that Arbitration shall always be resorted to in cases of dispute. Why is this? Because "Law" is that which is established by authority, for the violation of which there are rules and means to punish. So long as they are not established by authority, and no means of punishment exists, international rules cannot be looked upon as really "laws." International Law is really in this condition, and as it has been formulated by no sufficient authority, appointed by the rulers of all countries, and as there is no Court before which violators of it can be summoned, nor any means of punishing them; obedience to international law is merely owing to the sense of right in nations, and not to legal compulsion. So if people have no regard for this sense of right, obedience to international law at once disappears, and it becomes merely a subject for argument among the learned. As is really the case at the present time. Although, in books bearing the

titles of treaties of International Law, rectitude and a sense of right are upheld as guiding principles, yet—looking at the actual state of Europe at present, what amount of these qualities do we see existing among them. Their condition, in fact, is the same as at the time of the war in Shinshiu (China) Leaving past time out of the question, we can prove this by examples at present. Napoleon III. when on the throne of France, in his transactions with other nations, deceived and hoodwinked them in various ways, and thus destroyed the sense of right in the minds of his own people: but at the same time the prosperity of France reached its highest point, and International Law did not censure the wrong doer. The next who usurped power over Europe was the German Minister Bismark, whose deception and dissimulation have not been less than that of the French Emperor; and Germany, too, in his time has been brought to the highest point of prosperity, and his proceedings have not been checked by International Law. And the proceedings of England towards Oriental countries, and of Russia in Central Asia have all been of a similar cast. A policy of deception produces prosperity, and the attainment of prosperity seems to bar International Law. It is therefore not too much to say that, in the actual state of affairs, the principles of International Law have no longer the slightest effect on the communities of the present day, whose friendly relations with each other are not governed by a sense of what is right and decent. Especially in the Turco-Russian War of last year—leaving aside the question whether the reasons of the Russians for fighting were sufficient or not, or in accordance with the principles of International Law—look at the policy of England. At first she showed great friendliness to Turkey, and incited her to fight; and then, as soon as the war began—putting her hands in her pockets, stood silently looking on, and would not come to the rescue, even when the Turks were defeated, and were about to surrender their capital. But when a Treaty of Peace was about to be made, she suddenly raised objections, and insisted that the terms should be submitted to a Conference of European nations, and also wants to interfere in the making of the Treaty, and is on the point of declaring war, if her demands are not complied with. Is this what International Law admits as right? England, evidently thinking this policy to be for the interests of the country, does not seem at all ashamed of it; and giving as her reason that there is a clause in the treaty between Russia and Turkey which affects her interests, refuses to agree to it. Austria, also, decidedly stating that the treaty proposed is against the interest of Austria and Hungary, says she cannot agree to it. Thus it would appear that decision to accept or not of a treaty is to be arrived at by seeing whether it is profitable or not. We must therefore conclude that England and Austria, transforming the maxim 'Necessity has no law' into 'When our interests are concerned, the question of right or wrong does not matter' make the latter their policy and wrest international law to obey it.

Therefore, in associating with other countries where decency and the sense of right are ignored, and only self-interest regarded, our country, too, should likewise keep its own profit in view, and should direct its policy towards such ends only as will serve its own interests. Thus, in the event of war between England and Russia, we should seize every opportunity of profit, and not perplex ourselves with the principles of International Law, so as to lose any gain that may be attainable.

Alas, that the world should be so selfish as not to be restrained by International Law!

YOKOHAMA JOCKEY CLUB.

SPRING MEETING, 1878.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENTRIES.

FIRST DAY.—Wednesday 8th May.

1.—TRIAL PLATE.—For China Ponies that have never won a race. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile.

Vagabond, Vanguard, Velocity, Gone Away, Telephone, Brown Satin (late Mongolian Wolf) Sovereign, Brown Prince (late Satisfaction).

2.—GRIFFINS' PLATE.—Value \$200. For Japan Ponies, *bona fide* Griffins. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$10. First Pony to receive \$175; Second Pony, \$25. Five furlongs.

Vampire, Saint Elme, Kuazoku, Sir John, Admiral Rous, Petrel, Plover.

3.—.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of mile.

Valorous (late Mr. Toots), Grey Friar, The Dwarf, Liddesdale, Bonny Doon, Gone Away, Sunbeam, Skeddaddle, Chief Mongolian, Saltarello, Ballon Kiel (late Dick Swiveller) Oyama, Braemar, Lintie, Allendale, Dibs, Bravo, Chance.

4.—.—For China Ponies that have never won a race here up to date of entry. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Half a mile.

Velocity, Vanguard, Gone Away, Telephone, Saltarello, Sovereign, Allendale.

5.—.—For Japan Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Half a mile.

Jim Hills (late The Convert), Fleur de Lys, Monarque, Saint Elme, Annandale, Kuazoku, Drift, King All Francis (late Exile), Oyama, Admiral Rous, Distemper, Petrel, Plover.

6.—.—For China Ponies. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile and a half.

Vandal, Vagabond, Valorous, Sunbeam, Bonny Doon, Mongolian Chief, Hah Daiku San (late Kingfisher), Braemar, Hoolet, Sport, Dibs.

7.—MITSU BISHI CHALLENGE CUP.—Value \$200. Presented by the Mitsu Bishi Company. For Japan Ponies. To be won at two consecutive meetings by the same stable, to be held in the mean time by the last owner. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Once round and a distance. (Last winner Mr. Morrison's Distemper.)

Jim Hills, Fleur de Lys, Annandale, Kangaroo (late Kickapoo), Oyama, Distemper.

8.—.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Once Round.

Valorous, Vandal, Grey Friar, The Dwarf, Liddesdale, Bonny Doon, Sunbeam, Chief Mongolian, Crusader, Kangaroo, Oyama, Lintie, Hoolet, Braemar, Dibs, Chance, Bravo.

8.—.—Open to Professional Riders. For Japan Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. One mile.

Jim Hills, Annandale, King All Francis, Kangaroo, Oyama, Admiral Rous.

SECOND DAY.—Thursday 9th May.

1.—.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners of one Race at the Meeting 7-lbs. extra; of more than one race 10-lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Once Round.

Valorous, Vanguard, Grey Friar, The Dwarf, Liddesdale, Bonny Doon, Sunbeam, Chief Mongolian, Kangaroo, Oyama, Lintie, Hoolet, Braemar, Allendale, Dibs, Chance, Bravo.

2.—THE MAIDEN STAKES.—For Japan Ponies that have never won a race. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Half a mile.

Vampire, Saint Elme, Main Chance, Snake, Kuazoku, Sir John, Admiral Rous, Yama Sakura, Atsumidori, Petrel, Plover.

3.—.—For China Ponies. Winner of No. 6, First Day, 7-lbs. extra. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile and a quarter.

Vandal, Vanguard, The Dwarf, Bonny Doon, Sunbeam, Brown Satin, Chief Mongolian, Mongolian Chief, Brown Prince, Braemar, Hoolet, Dibs, Bravo, Favori.

4.—.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Half a mile.

Grey Friar, Velocity, Saint Elme, Monarque, Liddesdale, Telephone, Gone Away, Sunbeam, Skeddaddle, Saltarello, Chief Mongolian, Kuazoku, Talisman, Ballon Kiel, Admiral Rous, Allendale, Lintie, Braemar, Bravo, Chance.

5.—.—For Japan Ponies. Winners of one race of three-quarters of a mile or under at this meeting, 7-lbs. extra, of two or more such races, 12-lbs. extra. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Three-quarters of a mile.

Jim Hills, Fleur de Lys, Monarque, Annandale, Kuazoku, Kangaroo, Oyama, Distemper, Petrel, Plover.

6.—THE MITSU BISHI CHALLENGE CUP.—Presented. Value \$200. For China Ponies. To be won at two consecutive meetings by a Pony or Ponies, the *bona fide* property of the same owner or owners, to be held by the last winner at each meeting until finally won. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile and three-quarters. (Last winner Mr. Robertson's Dibs.)

Vandal, Valorous, Vagabond, Donca ter, Brown Satin, Mongolian Chief, Hah Daiku San, Brown Prince, Hoolet, Braemar, Sport, Dibs.

7.—.—For Japan Ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners of one race at this meeting, 7-lbs. extra, of two or more races, 10-lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. One mile.

Jim Hills, Vampire, Main Chance, Annandale, Sir John, Kangaroo, Oyama, Distemper.

8.—HACK STAKES.—For all Ponies not otherwise entered except for the Hurdle Race, and that have never won a flat race. Weight 12-stone. Entrance \$5. Three-quarters of a mile.

Jim Hills, Fleur de Lys, Monarque, Saint Elme, Main Chance, Annandale, Kuazoku, Drift, King All Francis, Kangaroo, Oyama, Distemper, Petrel, Plover.

9.—.—For Japan Ponies that have been beaten at this meeting. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Five furlongs.

THIRD DAY.—Friday, 10th May.

1.—**THE HURDLE RACE.**—Value, \$75. For all Ponies, over six (6) hurdles. Weight as per scale, with an allowance of 5lbs. to Japan Ponies. Entrance \$5. Once round and a distance.

Vanguard, Borderer (late The Snark), Liddesdale, Gone Away, Annandale, Brown Prince, Favori, Gladiateur.

2.—**—For all Ponies Weight as per scale.** Entrance \$5. Three furlongs.

Grey Friar, Fleur de Lys, Doncaster, Saint Elmo, Monarque, Liddesdale, Telephone, Gone Away, Skeddaddle, Snark, Chief Mongolian, Saltarello, Talisman, Ballon Kiel, Admiral Rous, Allendale, Braemar, Chance, Bravo.

3.—**THE CHINA CHAMPION STAKES.**—For China Ponies. Compulsory on winners on 1st and 2nd days at this meeting. A Sweepstake of \$10, with \$5 extra for every Race won. Open also to Ponies placed second, at an entrance fee of \$5, to go to the Fund. Entries to be made on the Course at the close of the second day's racing. First Pony to receive 75 per cent., second Pony 25 per cent. Weight for inches. One mile and a quarter.

4.—**THE JAPAN CHAMPION STAKES.**—For Japan Ponies. Compulsory on winners on 1st and 2nd days at this meeting. A sweepstake of \$10, with \$5 extra for every Race won. Open also to Ponies placed second, at an entrance fee of \$5, to go to the Fund. Entries to be made on the Course at the close of the second day's racing. First Pony to receive 75 per cent., second Pony to receive 25 per cent. Weight as per scale. One mile.

5.—**THE CHINA CONSOLATION.**—For China Ponies beaten at this meeting. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Once round and a distance.

Vandal, Vagabond, Volorous, Velocity, Vanguard, Grey Friar, The Dwarf, Gone Away, Sunbeam, Bonny Doon, Telephone, Skeddaddle, Brown Satin, Mongolian Chief, Chief Mongolian, Sovereign, Crusader, Hah Daiku San, Brown Prince, Lintie, Allendale, Dibs, Favori, Sport.

6.—**THE JAPAN CONSOLATION.**—For Japan Ponies beaten at this meeting. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Five furlongs.

Jim Hills, Fleur de Lys, Vampire, Monarque, Saint Elmo, Annandale, Main Chance, Snake, Kuazoku, Drift, Sir John, King all Francis, Kangaroo, Oyama, Admiral Rous, Distemper, Petrel, Plover.

7.—**THE CHINA HANDICAP.**—Open to Professional Riders. For China Ponies. Entrance \$5. Once round.

8.—**THE JAPAN HANDICAP.**—Open to Professional Riders. For Japan Ponies. Entrance \$5. Once round.

9.—**—For China Ponies. Open to Professional Riders. Weight for inches. Winners of one race at this meeting 7lbs., of two races, 10lbs., of more than 2 races, 14lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three-quarters of a mile.**

Grey Friar, Velocity, The Dwarf, Liddesdale, Telephone, Gone Away, Sunbeam, Bonny Doon, Skeddaddle, Chief Mongolian, Saltarello, Crusader, Hah Daiku San, Hoolet, Lintie, Allendale, Braemar, Dibs, Chance, Bravo.

EXTRATS.

THE BARBOUR CASE.
(From the 'Friend of India.')

IN dealing with this Barbour case, we now come to what is by far the most difficult part of it: that is the special liberties which these gentlemen allowed themselves, under the plea that they were justified either by the nature of their relations with Messrs. Williamson, or by the usages of Manchester trade. If we approach the dispute with a bias in favour of either party, such as Sir George Jessel seems to have been under in favour of the plaintiffs, it is easy enough to pronounce a strong opinion upon the matters in dispute; but it is certainly not so easy, when we make an effort to view them impartially from the stand-point which the two parties respectively occupy. Suppose we look in the first place at what seems to ourselves one of the most disagreeable features of Messrs. Barbour's conduct, namely, the discounting of Messrs. Williamson's bills. The charge against them under this head is two-fold. It is complained (1) that they discounted these bills at lower rates than they represented, and (2) that they omitted to give Messrs. Williamson credit for the proceeds of the bills from the real date of discount. As a rule, they held in their hands at all times bills remitted to them by Messrs. Williamson in advance of their wants, to be discounted as required for the payment of the goods bought by them on Messrs. Williamson's account. Now it is shewn in the evidence that they used these Bills freely for their own purposes, discounting them, or holding them over, according to their own forecast of the discount market. In other words, they assumed a right of holding the bills, not as Williamson's agents, but as bankers, and made the discounting of them a source of profit to themselves. Thus they held, say, in February, 1874, Williamson's bills of exchange, say, for £12,000, while they had no payment to make on their account until the 31st March. There was no necessity therefore for their discounting the bills until, say, the 30th March; but believing that the rates were likely to advance, they discounted them in February, say at 3½ per cent., as a speculation of their own. The market rose as they anticipated, and on the 30th March the discount rate is 4½ per cent., at which rate they credit Messrs. Williamson with the proceeds for the payments they have to make next day. Thus they assumed a

liberty, or right, of treating the bills of exchange as having been deposited with them as bankers. They did precisely what Glyn's or Smith Payne's would have assumed the right of doing, if Messrs. Williamson had sent the Bills to them to meet their liabilities to Barbour as they matured. The whole question, therefore, seems to turn upon the fact whether they were entitled so to regard themselves or not. Where remittances were in their hands, whether in the shape of bills of exchange or actual cash in advance of Messrs. Williamson's requirements, were they at liberty to deal with these advances as a banker would have dealt with them, and to make a profit out of them? Or were they bound to leave them untouched, until Messrs. Williamson's requirements necessitated their being used? The Judge does not hesitate to say that they were bound to leave them untouched; or, if they dealt with them at all, to do so on account of the Williamson's only, giving them the profit or charging them with the loss that had occurred on the use of them. It would be dishonest if, out of deference to popular impression, we were to say that the Judge was clearly right. It certainly bears a very nasty look, that Messrs. Barbour should use their financial skill to discount the bills before they are really wanted at 3½ per cent., and the charge Messrs. Williamson 4½ per cent.; and yet it is exactly what every banker would have done had Messrs. Williamson financed their purchases from Barbour through such an agency. Sir George Jessel insisted that the Barbours had no right to discount the Bills until they were actually required to meet Messrs. Williamson's purchases; and he would have insisted no doubt, that had the £12,000 been cash instead of Bills, they were bound not to use it in any way for their own purpose, but to have labelled it as Messrs. Williamson's, and left it intact. What Messrs. Barbour virtually said was, "if you send us remittances in advance of your liabilities, we shall regard ourselves as your bankers *ad hoc*, and make what profit out of them we can for ourselves, until they are absorbed by your requirements." And the sole question, as it seems to us, is whether in the absence of any specific agreement upon the point, they had the right to do so or not. What we cannot give in to—is the declaration that it was fraud to do so. In the absence of express instructions as to what they were to do with the advance remittances that reached them, they assumed a right of dealing with them as bankers *ad hoc* for Messrs. Williamson; and Sir George says that it was a "fraud" to do so. It is the fact, that we approached this part of the case with a strong impression that what Messrs. Barbour did was morally wrong, and that we should have to condemn it in severe terms; but the closer we have looked at it, the more indisposed are we to follow Sir George Jessel's leading on the point. To convict Messrs. Barbour of anything morally wrong in what they did, it seems to us that it would be necessary to shew, that they were bound by express instructions, either to hold these advance remittances as a mere trust in their hands, and not to touch them; or to make use of them to any advantage they could on Messrs. Williamson's account, charging a commission for what they did. In the absence of all instructions, it was fairly, we think, to be presumed by Messrs. Barbour, that they were at liberty to look upon themselves *ad hoc* as Williamson's bankers. If we are wrong, we should be most glad to see the right view of the matter set forth in our columns by some one else.

THE JAPAN TIMES,
A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE
AND ART.

Price Twenty-four Dollars Per Annum.

CONTENTS OF No. 16. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. APRIL 20TH, 1878

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The Mitsui Bishi Company. The Forestry Laws II. The Finance Minister's Notification. Silkworms' eggs.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

On Earthquakes, By Dr. Edmund Naumann: Continuation. List of books consulted. Eruption of Fujiyama in 1707.

EDITORIAL NOTES.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.—NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 16. Retribution.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The production of silkworms' eggs (*two articles*.) Failure of International laws.

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(With this number is given No. III of the *Japan Times' Law Reports*.)

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IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

MILES.	STATIONS.	DOWN TRAINS.												FARES.		
		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st Cla.	2nd Cla.	3rd Cla.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	—	—	—
3½	Shinagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
6	Omori.....	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	— 40	— 20	— 10
10½	Kawasaki.....	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	— 55	— 30	— 15
12½	Tsurumi.....	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	— 70	— 40	— 20
16½	Kanagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Yokohama.....	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	1 00	— 60	— 30

UP TRAINS.

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen sen	yen sen	yen sen
—	Yokohama.....	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	—	—	—
1½	Kanagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
5½	Tsurumi.....	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	— 40	— 20	— 10
7½	Kawasaki.....	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	— 55	— 30	— 15
12	Omori.....	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	— 70	— 40	— 20
14½	Shinagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	1 00	— 60	— 30

STATEMENT OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

		Passengers &c.	Goods &c.	Total.
TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION. (Miles open 18) for week ended April 14th 1878...				
		\$ 7,254.18	\$ 795.86	\$ 8,050.04
	for corresponding period last year.	6,188.11	903.82	7,091.93
	Increase.....			\$ 958.11
KIOTO—KOBE SECTION. (Miles open 47½) for week ended April 7th 1878				
		\$ 8,912.979	\$ 891.106	\$ 9,804.85
	for corresponding period last year			\$ 9,228.287
	Increase.....			\$ 576.563

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19th, 1878.

IMPORTS:—Business during the past few days has materially fallen off. Although native exchange is rather better, we have to report a decidedly weaker market. Heavy arrivals of goods, especially Yarns, are responsible for this. We hear that over 6,000 bales of yarn are in warehouse, sold to arrive, and about as much more unsold, with large quantities nearly due. We are not likely to see clearances of any importance until the arrival of new Tea and Silk, and as we are evidently to have a backward season, import merchants must be patient.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** During the past week, very little business has been done in silk, owing, doubtless, in great measure to the difficulty experienced by buyers in selecting a parcel of fair quality from the very mixed lots which compose the small remaining stock. Much that we reported last week as having been taken into buyers' godowns has also been rejected, so that actual settlements for the fortnight amount only to about 150 bales. Some parcels, however, are still under treaty and before the present week closes, this figure may be somewhat increased. Prices are well maintained at our last quotations, and natives do not appear to care particularly whether they effect sales or not. Stock remains at our previously quoted figures, not exceeding 1,500 native bales.

EXCHANGE:—There is again very little business to report, and rates continue the same as last quoted, for Bank and Private paper on London.

On Hongkong and Shanghai, very few transactions have taken place, and rates on the former place have declined to ¼th @ ¼ per cent.

On New York and San Francisco, there is no business reported.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 4s. 0d. Sixty day' sight, 3s. 11½d. sight 3s. 11d. @ 3s. 11d. Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 5.00. sight 4.90. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.06½. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 73½. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 1½ @ 1½ o/o disc. Private, 10 days' sight 2 o/o disc. San Francisco Bank sight 94½. New York Bank, sight 94½. **BULLION.** Gold Yen 392, Kinsatsu 426½.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	" 1	" 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, viâ COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

* To connect with the O. & O. S. S. *Gaelic* sailing April 20th.

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON viâ BRINDISI

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	" 8	" 15
" 23	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	" 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	" 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	" 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON viâ MARSEILLES

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 8
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 22
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

* The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

** No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

*** Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

*** Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	April 17	Apr. 25		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	Apr. 24	May 2	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 15	" 30		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 24	June 17	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 8	" 24		M. M. Co.'s -	London	May 1	June 24	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	April 8	April 26		P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 1	" 1	
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 19			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	April 20		

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Apr. 13	Oxfordshire	Jones	Brit. str.	1,228	London	Jan. 31	General	Smith, Baker & Co.
" 15	Glencagles	McBain	Brit. str.	1,839	London		General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 15	Johan Irgens	Mortensen	Norw. brsq.	775	Newcastle N.S.W.	Mar. 4	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 15	Coldinghame	Phillips	Brit. ship	1,059	Sydney	Feb. 26	Coals	E. Abbott.
" 17	Obed Baxter	Baxter	Am. barq.	916	Amboyna	Mar. 6	Kerosine	C. & J. Trading Co.
" 17	Suminoye Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	852	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 17	Audacious	Durrant	H.B.M.'s ship	3,774	Nagasaki	Apr. 13		
" 17	Magpie	Lang	Brit. G.-boat	665	Nagasaki	" 13		
" 18	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai	" 10	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 18	Oriassa	Briscoe	Brit. str.	1,119	Hongkong	" 10	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 18	Laira	Trevina	Brit. barq.	498	London	Nov. 2	General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 18	Oceanic	Affleck	Brit. barq.	320	Takao	Apr. 3	Sugar	Netherlands Trading Co.
" 18	Glengaber	Gray	Brit. barq.	658	Antwerp		General	L. Kniffier & Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Oxfordshire* Mr. E. Smith and Col. Shevington and daughter.

Per Brit. str. *Glencagles*:—Messrs. Etivell and McGregor from London; Messrs. Glass and Montell from Shanghai.

Per Brit. str. *Orrissa* from Hongkong:—10 Chinese on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. J. Mackrell Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Mohi and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy, Mrs. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Buch, Mr. and Mrs. Rome, Mr. and Mrs. Takeda, Miss Kohama, Messrs. Da Rosa, E. S. Benson, Ray, Douglass, James, Upton, Smith, Euchi, Yamamoto, Nishida, Yamagata, Achong, Takekawa, Makai, Kawaia Stow, Fujii, Shiogengri; and 251 Japanese, and 5 Chinese, and 2 Europeans in steerage. For America: Lieut. J. E. Noel, U.S.N.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Lader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; S. S. "Madras," Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Soosloo," Dec. 23; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Hase," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24.

FROM HAMBURG:—"August," Oct. 16.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—P. M. S. S. "City of Peking," April 1.

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM TABLE BAY:—"Fair Leader," Jan. 19.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," S. S. "Madras," "Bon Accord," S. S. "Burmese."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. April 16th; Hongkong M. M. str. April 24th; America P. M. str. April 22nd; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 25th.

REPOETS:—The British steamer *Glencagles* reports:—Left Shanghai at 6 a.m. on the 12th instant; arrived in Yokohama 2.40 p.m. on the 15th. Owing to thick weather hove too for some hours off Rock Island, making the passage in eighty hours—actual steaming time seventy-six hours—being an average of 13½ knots per hour.

The Norwegian barque *Johan Irgens* reports:—Left Newcastle N.S.W., 4th March. Fine weather throughout. 41 days out.

The British barque *Oceanic* reports:—Left Takao on the 3rd April. Strong North East winds to Van Dieman Straits; from thence favourable weather.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Apr. 13	Jotun	Haul	Norw. ship	885	Niigata		General	E. B. Watson.
" 13	Akitashima Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	1,146	Kamaishi		General	M. B. M. Co.
" 13	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Kobe	Apr. 15	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 15	Norman	Campbell	Am. barq.	300	Cruise			Captain.
" 15	Dido	Werner	Am. cutter	29	Kurile Islands		General	Captain.
" 16	Oceanic	Metcalfe	Brit. str.	3,700	Hongkong		Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 17	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong	" 25	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 17	Kokonoye Maru	Husey	Jap. str.	1,133	Shanghai & ports	" 25	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 17	Tamura Maru	Dithlefsen	Jap. str.	877	Hakodate & Niigata		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 18	Lord of the Isles	Watt	Brit. barq.	350	Kobe		Rice	Ed. Fischer & Co.
" 18	Afghan	Hunt	Brit. str.	1,439	Kobe	" 20	General	W. M. Strachan & Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* for Hongkong:—Messrs. J. R. Hughes and J. Eustan Syner.

Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Mange, Messrs. Huot, Peterson, Delahourde, Bogomoloff, and Ah Chew.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Lady Parkes, Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. S. D. Hepburn, Miss Fukuzawa, Miss Sawa, Miss Oyoni, Mr. and Mrs. Kato, Mr. and Mrs. Yasuoka and child, Dr. Seigfreid, Messrs. Hori, Nakagawa, A. Owston, D. Hay, Sawahara, Scott, Kawase, Tokuda, C. Mayet, Nagashima, M. M. Bair, W. Zappe, Theodore Morris, Thorn, Darwin, Takezoi, Leon Blum, and Yamamoto.

LOADING:—*Orrissa*, for Hongkong and Europe, April 24th.—P. & O. Co.

Tokio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, April 24th.—M. B. M. Co.

Johann Wickhorst, for London, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffier & Co.

Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Belgie, for San Francisco, April 20.—O. & O. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. April 24th: for Hongkong M. M. str. May 1st: for America O. & O. str. April 20th: for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 24th: for Hakodate M. B. M. str.

CARGOES:—Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* for Hongkong:—Wheat, 4,033 Piculs.

Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—Silk for France, 104 Bales; Silk for England, 35 Bales; Waste Silk, 27 Bales; Treasure for London, \$63,000.00.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru* for Shanghai and ports: Treasure, \$6,100.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Mar. 28	Lighthouse Department	
Orissa	Briscoe	British steamer	1,119	Hongkong	April 18	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong
Oxfordshire	Jones	British steamer	1,228	London	April 13	Smith, Baker & Co.	
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,146	Shanghai & ports	April 11	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Tanais	De la Marcelle	French steamer	1,746	Hongkong	April 12	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tokio Maru	Swain	Japanese steamer	2,119	Shanghai	April 18	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Japanese steamer	883	Kobe	April 7	M. B. M. Co.	
Wakancura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,300	Hiogo	Mar. 30	M. B. M. Co.	
Winlow	Barker	American steamer	456	Newcastle N.S.W.	April 10	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
SAILING SHIP.							
Coldingham	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Glengaber	Gray	British barque	658	Antwerp		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Henry A. Litchfield	Drummond	American barque	638	Newcastle N.S.W.	April 2	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johan Irgens	Mortensen	Norwegian barque	775	Newcastle N.S.W.	April 15	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	Hamburg & K'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffier & Co.	London.
John Potts	McPherson	British barque	373	Takao	April 7	Jardine Matheson & Co.	
Laira	Trevina	British barque	408	London	April 18	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newcastle N.S.W.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Mount Washington	Perkins	American ship	1,217	Batavia	Mar. 30	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboyna	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Oceanic	Affleck	British barque	320	Takao	April 18	Netherlands Trading Co.	
Omba	Hall	British ship	836	Shanghai	April 2	Cornes & Co.	For freight, orch' ter.
Sumner R. Mead	Dixon	American ship	1,117	New York	April 5	C. & J. Trading Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Juno...	8	2,216	Corvette	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel...	4	462	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
BRITISH—Audacious...	14	3,774	Ship	Captain Durrant.
BRITISH—Maggie...	3	665	Gun vessel	Captain Lang.
GERMAN—Augusta...	12	1,900	Corvette	Captain Hessempflug.
RUSSIAN—Boyan...	...	2,000	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak...	8	1,100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
RUSSIAN—Vsadnick...	8	1,069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

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RESERVE FUND ... \$1,000,000.

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Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "
" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Malala.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java..... Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

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The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

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(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " " ".....	6 " " " ".....	1	" "
" " " ".....	3 " " " ".....	¾	" "
" " " ".....	1 " " " ".....	¾	" "
" " " ".....	10 days.....	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " ".....	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " ".....	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hioho.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,**
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. P. H. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " " 250 "
	Ticket \$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

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Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND.

MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

Parents wishful to place children under her charge at the Pension Dogny, may address their enquiries as to terms &c. to the Editor of the *Japan Times*, who is empowered to furnish them.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

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The paper will be forwarded to our subscribers through the Japanese post. Subscribers who wish to forward copies of the paper to friends abroad, may forward to us the addresses to which they wish them sent; when they will be regularly dispatched, without charge for postage.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 17.]

April 27, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

ARE OUR TELEGRAMS SAFE?

WE must call the serious attention of the Foreign Ministers and of the foreign commercial community to the following announcement, in which we describe a not inconsiderable danger, but one not at first sight apparent. On Monday evening last, in the advertising columns of our local daily contemporaries, appeared this Notification:—

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHS.

The public is informed that the Government, having officially opened its Lines of Telegraph for International Correspondence, will no longer continue to receive at local rates Messages addressed to Nagasaki for re-transmission to Foreign Stations. Such messages must be addressed direct to their ultimate destination, and be paid for at the international rate, otherwise they may be refused or stopped.

In the event of any Telegram, the ultimate destination of which is beyond the Empire of Japan, being transmitted at the local telegram rates, the sender of the same will be liable for the full charge.

T. ISHIE,

Acting Director of Telegraphs.

Public Works Department,
Tokio, 22nd April, 1878.

When, at the end of last month, the announcement was made that the Japanese Government had concluded such arrangements with the Great Northern Telegraph Company as relegated it to its point of departure at Nagasaki, and gave to the native Department the care of all messages, international, or other, we congratulated the Government on having made a step in advance. A slight saving, too, was gained by foreign merchants, when sending only a short message abroad, in consequence of Japan adopting the one word system, and abolishing the \$2.515 fee for a message, as far as Nagasaki, of any length up to twenty words. But we never contemplated that Government would force us to use *only* their office here for the despatch of messages abroad, and deprive us of our right to have such started from Nagasaki, when we thought fit. This threat to 'refuse' or 'stop' messages sent to agents at Nagasaki for transmission by the Great Northern line implies a supervision over our telegraphic correspondence to which it is impossible for us to submit; which shakes our confidence in the Department's trustworthiness; and at once raises a suspicion of a most uncomfortable nature that some interested persons may be tampering with our telegrams and spying into our secrets. And the Agents of the Great Northern Company, moreover, have to account to the public for their own conduct in this matter; as it is evident that, without their connivance, the announcement would hardly have been made. For, unless they betray us, it will be impossible for messages sent to our agents at Nagasaki for transmission by the Great Northern Agent there, to be 'refused' or 'stopped' by the Japanese Government. It is to be hoped that these errors will be rectified; that this offensive Notification will be at once withdrawn, and that

the Agents of the Great Northern Company will immediately give to the public satisfactory assurance that our messages are safe in their hands.

At first sight, of course, the Notification would appear to indicate merely a 'squeeze,' especially of Baron Reuter. All Reuter's messages—we may tell the public—are 'packed'; it is by this process that he makes a profit on lines where the charge is for a given number of words or under. By the use of his directory of registered addresses, each compressed into a single word, his Agents are able to run together, without confusion, any number of different persons' messages, so as to fill up exactly the full number for any particular charge. And in this instance, Reuter's Agent here, by sending packed messages for abroad for transmission by his colleague in Nagasaki, and sending them as local messages at a charge of \$2.515, saves on each group of twenty words almost a dollar-and-a-half, inasmuch as twenty words for abroad, delivered in at the Government's office here, would cost him \$4.00. We fully anticipated trouble of some sort, when the charge of 20 cents a word was advertised as to come into force on and after the 1st of May. The proper charge would have been 12½ cents, or under, so that the charge for twenty words to Nagasaki for transmission abroad should not have amounted to more than for a local message of the same length. But we by no means anticipated, in addition to an enhanced charge, such an interference with our political and private affairs as this Notification amounts to.

Nothing of course is easier than for anyone, except Reuter's agent, to evade the Government trap, unless the Great Northern's agent at Nagasaki consents to become a Government spy, which we find difficult to believe. A man here has only to arrange with his Nagasaki agent that every word sent hence to him, for transmission abroad, is the code word above or below the real word to be sent on. Then, even if his cipher were guessed (and senders of messages would be astonished if they were told how much an intelligent telegrapher comes to guess, after a few months' working of a code) the sentence hence to Nagasaki would only translate into unintelligible gibberish; while if the Government at Nagasaki did get a copy of the real message sent on, it would not agree with the sham message sent hence. But why should we have to resort to any such subterfuge? The spot of ground on which is landed the shore end of the Great Northern Company's cable is a concession over which the Japanese Government have no jurisdiction—it is, or ought to be, neutral ground for all nations having Treaties with Japan—and with our messages sent thence through the submarine cable they have no concern. It should be sufficient for them that their own messages abroad are faithfully transmitted; they have no right or title to enquire whether a foreigner's message sent by the cable originates in Nagasaki or in Yokohama. Enough for

them that they have control over their own land lines: and it is natural and proper that the Government, whose property the land lines are, should claim and take precedence for their own messages over those of other people. Beyond this, all their customers, native and foreign, have a right to expect strict impartiality, and perfect secrecy. That messages should be submitted to censorship, to determine whether they are for delivery at Nagasaki, or for transmission thence to some other country, and subjected to refusal or delay at the caprice of a Japanese telegraph-clerk, is not to be borne. And it is clear that the system of differential charges cannot be worked without scrutiny. That the charges are differentiated is an error. As a matter of business, of cost of clerks' work, wear and tear of instruments &c., it is clearly the same thing to the Department, whether the twenty words sent to Nagasaki are to go on farther or not, and the charge for both classes of messages ought to be as far as possible assimilated. It is open to the Department to raise the tariff for local messages, if it thinks it would pay, to a point equalizing their cost with that of foreign-going messages at twenty cents a word: but we expect the Director knows better than to do this, and the only other alternative is to lower the tariff on foreign-bound words.

At such a crisis as this, especially, with war imminent between two great European powers, it behoves Japan to avoid the faintest breath of suspicion on her telegraphic system. An item of information might often, in times like these, be worth a frigate, and the suppression of a telegram *in transitu* might constitute a breach of neutrality. England has quite sufficient cause for dissatisfaction as it is; the Great Northern, though nominally Danish, is actually a Russian-owned line; and certainly either combatant would be apt to punish Japan most heavily, should any disaster occur to her ships or her commerce in these seas which could be traceable to Japanese connivance with foreign intrigue.

We have no doubt that these remarks will give offence to a number of individuals of whose very names we are in ignorance: but this is not a subject, nor is this a time, which will allow an English journal to give out an uncertain sound. We have full warrant for what we have written, and for more, if needful, and the interests or feelings of individuals do not weigh as a grain of dust in our balance, when in the other lies the welfare of our native land.

FORE-SHORE RECLAMATION. I.

IN our attempt to show the Japanese how some of their 'ruined rivers' may be restored, we have sketched the processes to be employed on the upper and middle sections of the streams under treatment; when we shall have given the same attention to the lower section, the 'mouth' of a river, our task will be done. But the same rule holds here as that mentioned when treating of rivers' middle sections:—each stream has its own peculiar surrounding circumstances, varying with various localities, to which must be adapted the processes in every separate case. And, as the river widens at its outlet, or divides into several branches as it meets the sea, so does our subject of riverine engineering develop, till it becomes foreshore reclamation, and modes of treatment rival in number the mouths of the Danube, the Mississippi, or the Nile.

If this were a Magazine instead of a weekly Review, and a number of pages, not lines, was our limit, we might attempt more: but, as it is, we shall confine ourselves to a single example of Japanese rivers. It is at once familiar and typical; for the Sumidagawa is not the only stream in Japan choked at its mouth by the accumulations of centuries of mismanagement, and creeping to the sea though acres upon acres of scarcely covered mud or sand which might, without much difficulty or expense, be converted

into useful land. Meandering through the vast flats which extend beyond the Forts and creep on along either side of the gulf of Yedo, as far as Yokohama on the one hand, and Saratoga Spit on the other, are the mouths of several rivers; but we only propose to deal now with the Sumidagawa, flowing through Tokio, and specially with that branch of it which discharges itself into the gulf to the right of the Light-house Fort.

Our readers will of course understand that we assume the upper and middle sections of the river to have been treated as recommended in our previous articles; that the accumulation of lithic matter has been checked, the flow of the stream facilitated, and that, nearing its outlet, it has thus acquired a certain volume and force. This has now to be utilized and increased. And now comes into play the valuable experience and appropriate apparatus of the Dutch engineer, for catching the soil and developing the channel. This successfully achieved, the reclamation of the whole foreshore becomes a simple matter, and the value of the ground reclaimed will more than repay the expenses of the whole operations; for not only will thousands of acres of valuable land be wrested from the sea, but the chosen channel will be rendered navigable, so that eventually Tokio might be made really a sea-port, and not remain dependant, as she is now, upon the anchorage of Shinagawa, an anchorage so exposed as for ever to preclude the profitable employment of ocean steamers, with so insecure a terminal point of their voyages.

We must again ask our readers to construct a diagram for themselves out of a familiar object. Let them take the skeleton of a flounder or other flat fish, and assume the head to be placed off Tskidji, and the tail to be in the vicinity of the present anchorage off Shinagawa. Considering the backbone to represent the channel of the Sumidagawa, which we propose to improve and prolong, and the side bones to represent the controlling apparatus to promote silt-catching, our rough diagram will be complete. But before using it in our description of proposed improvements, we must more minutely than we have hitherto done define a river's 'bar' and describe the process of its formation. This we cannot do in clearer or less technical language than that employed by the great authority Elisée Reclus, whom we have quoted once before. He writes:—

"At first sight, the origin of a bar seems a matter easily to be understood, especially in the case of rivers with waters much charged with mud. It is thought that the current of fresh water, being suddenly arrested in its career by the sea water, immediately lets drop on the bottom the matter which is held in suspension, and thus gradually forms the kind of sill which rises between the bed of the river and the ocean. This, however, is not the exact mode of formation. The flow of fresh water, being but little retarded, continues its movement above the salt water coming in a contrary direction. The sediment which is let fall by the current of the river is taken hold of by the counter-current and borne up stream. At the same time the heavier alluvium, which makes its way to the sea by gliding over the bottom of the river-bed, is arrested in its progress, and is mingled with the sand and the innumerable organic remains driven in by the waves. Thus an increasing cushion of mud is formed in front of the rising tide flowing to meet the river, and in this way the heaps of *débris* which constitute the bar are gradually accumulated. This obstacle being produced by the shock of two opposing currents, shifts coincidently with the scene of the conflict. During floods, the impetus of the mass of fresh water becomes sufficiently strong to remove the whole bar and to carry it further in advance; but on the other hand, when the water of the river is low, the tide resumes its preponderance, and the bar is again driven back. The barrier shifts its place, sometimes in one direction, sometimes in another, and is incessantly seeking to preserve its equilibrium between the two opposed forces which impel it."

From this quotation may be seen how vitally important is the work which has to be done on the upper and middle

sections of rivers, and how mistaken are engineers whom we have ridiculed for 'pottering about their mouths,' without attacking at their sources the evils which they seek to cure. It is evident that the prime necessity in working at the mouth of a river is that the stream should bring down a *minimum* of lithic deposit and a *maximum* of pure water, which should flow with such steady force (not rapidity, which in these instances, is a description of force not desirable) that in all ordinary weather the impetus of the fresh water should be sufficient to discharge the material forming the bar in sufficiently deep water that it shall not impede navigation. Along the backbone of our fish's skeleton, indicating the prolongation of the river's channel, which we propose to bring out into the bay, we have therefore to create, first, artificial banks, and this can be done by planting, at the junction of the fish's side-bones with the *vertebra*, and tapering off to right and left on the lines marked by the side-bones themselves, the *zinkstake*, *wieps* and *fascines*, the Dutch apparatus by means of which so much good land has been recovered from the stormy German Ocean by the persevering, industrious Netherlanders.

Of these combinations the 'fascine' is the unit. Our readers of course know that a fascine is a bundle of sticks;—in this case they are made of any tough brushwood procurable, and should be from eight to twelve feet long and about eight inches thick. The 'wiep' is simply a continuous fascine, a brushwood cable, and its length is determined by the object for which it is required. It is made rather thinner than the fascine—say about eighteen inches round, and is bound at shorter intervals. For binding, there is nothing better than the tendrils of the *fuyi* (Wisteria) or that excessively tough ground creeper so common about Kobe—there are some fine specimens in the Main Street. The 'Zinkstak' is a mattress made up of 'wieps' and 'fascines' arranged thus:—The brushwood is laid on trestles, compressed and bound, and turned out as 'fascine' or 'wiep' as required. 'Wieps' are laid in parallel rows, forming a grid, with bars two or three feet apart, and of the length of the intended 'Zinkstak' and across these bars are laid fascines close together. Across these again, parallel with the 'wieps,' are laid another layer of fascines, and again above these, a third layer, in the same direction at the first. Over all are laid 'wieps' carefully adjusted so as to be exactly over the grid of 'wieps' at the bottom. The fabric is laced firmly together, as it is built up, with vegetable binders or straw ropes, passed through the interstices and round the lower and upper layers of 'wieps.' The four edges are fenced with stakes and long sticks, and the whole apparatus is further strengthened by stakes driven through the mass at intervals from top to bottom. Should it be thought necessary, still greater firmness can be given by a cross layer of 'wieps' at top and bottom. Mooring props must be also provided, which depend for their character on the locality for which the 'Zinkstak' is destined, sometimes being collections of stout stakes or piles, ten or twelve together.

Thus is formed a brushwood raft, and when ready for launching, it should be from one-and-a-half to two feet thick. It can be rapidly made, and of any manageable size that may be desired, and of course wherever it is possible, it is constructed on a spot uncovered at ebb tide, so that the rising tide may float it, and it may then be easily moved to its destination. There it is sunk by means of stone ballast, the fascines, as laid in, having been partially weighted with heavy sandy soil, and the upper surface protected by tough clay well rammed in. The whole is then moored in position, and great care must be bestowed upon the selection of the site; for once down, it is a most difficult thing to raise. It soon becomes practically immovable. Storms, typhoons, currents, floods, fail to disintegrate it, and the sand and clay protect the more perish-

able vegetable parts from the attacks even of the dreaded *teredo navalis*.

Having thus prepared our apparatus, and sketched the outline of the plan on which it is to be used, we must leave until next week the description of the application of one to the other—and the result.

KOBE ECONOMISTS.

THE hitherto happy villagers of Kobe are affording the world another proof of the truth of the burden of an old song:—

'Tis better to leave the well alone.'

It cannot be that this community, so celebrated for its athletic triumphs, can be kicking against its Municipality, because it has so neglected its training as to have taken on flesh like Jeshurun;—for 'dull and depressed,' 'nothing doing,' and 'no transactions' have for months been stereotyped phrases in the circular of its Chamber of Commerce, as with ourselves. We are therefore thrown back on our childhood's friend and guide, Dr. Watts, for an explanation of its vagaries, and can only ascribe to Satanic influence the mischief wrought by a few idle malcontents. It is painful to see the only representative of the Fourth Estate, the *Hiogo News*, stumbling along in the van of the blind, and a second flash of light from the *Kobe Chronicle* seems needed to prevent them all falling together into the ditch of misrule. Failing this, perhaps a friendly warning from ourselves may not be unwelcomed.

Some three years ago, in the columns of the *Japan Mail*, Kobe was held up as an example, bright and shining with gas and cleanliness, to dark and dirty Yokohama. In the columns of this Review, too, have the excellence of its Municipal system and the consequent comfort of its citizens been cited for our imitation, and put Yokohama to shame. The happy harmony in which they lived together, the non-existence of 'cliques,' the efficiency of their police, the splendid discipline of their Fire-brigade, the beauty of their Recreation Ground and the conveniences of their Boathouse and bathing-place were themes of our untiring admiration; while a feeling of envy, almost amounting to hatred, was always excited by the calm, cool tone of superiority assumed by every stray denizen of the favoured Goshen who visited our benighted land, as he told us that, in Kobe—"there are no burglars, no fires, no beggars, no mud, and no dogs that bay the moon." A series of shocks of the rudest character has been given recently to our childlike faith in all these perfections of our sister port:—one correspondent of the *Hiogo News* calls for a chemist's aid to guard his slumbers from hawks that make night hideous; a thief in broad daylight walks off with property from the sacred chemist's shop itself; fires in rapid succession give pause to the Insurance Companies, who were on the point of reducing *premia* fifty per cent; and now seven sages come and take the roof off our faith in the perfection of the Kobe Municipal system, with their Land Renters' Committee Report. Happily they make such tremendous blunders in their statement of accounts, and commit themselves to such an utterly untenable proposal for the disposition of their savings out of the year's income,—to give it no harsher epithet—that we entertain strong hopes of their coming to their senses and withdrawing their Report, when their errors are mildly pointed out to them by ourselves, instead of incurring the harsher rebuke they ought to get from a bench of Consular magistrates.

It is necessary to quote in full their first paragraph, containing their statement of accounts. It reads as follows:—

"Having made a careful examination of the Municipal accounts for the past five years, your Committee find that

the total expenditure during that period, when arranged under the various heads, shews as follows:—

Superintendent's Salary.....	\$15,000.00
Police	18,825.32
Medical attendance for do.....	1,272.34
Lighting Settlement (part gas, part kerosine)...	11,458.14
Scavengers and watering	5,955.60
Municipal Buildings	21,547.52
Insurance on Municipal Hall.....	525.00
Roads and footways	8,457.60
Drains	5,044.86
Cost of lamp posts and lamps	3,061.64
Public Park and Bund Improvements.....	946.04
Recreation Ground.....	4,033.52
Ground Rents	3,634.19
Cost of Fire Wells, Bell Tower, &c.....	2,162.50
Expenses of Cemetery, less fees received	998.94
Sundries, including furniture for Municipal Buildings	4,007.53
	<u>\$106,930.74</u>

Now on the face of this statement is to be instantly descried its inaccuracy, and it should have been printed in red ink, as indicative of a blush. In the following paragraph we are told, and truly told, that the yearly revenue is about \$12,600; and how, in the name of Cocker and Colenso, do the seven wise men who append their names to the Report propose to make out that an expenditure of \$107,000 has been got out of an accrued income of \$63,000! That there is no misprint of 'five' for 'nine' is evident, for the superintendent's salary (\$3,000 per annum) is correctly stated to have cost \$15,000, and the police and lighting items seem also correct. We will charitably hope that it was not from eagerness to make out a case, but from ignorance of book-keeping, that the Land Renters' Committee have confounded capital with yearly expenditure. Because this is what they have done. Their items of \$21,500 for Municipal Buildings, of \$8,500 for Roads and footways, of \$5,000 for Drains, of \$3,000 for lamps and lamp posts, of \$2,000 for Firewells, Bell Tower, &c. of \$4,000 for the Recreation Ground and whatever may have been the cost of the Municipal and Police furniture,—which together make up a sum of \$44,000—ought all to have been excluded from their statement of 'five years' total expenditure. When the settlements of Osaka and Hiogo were first made, the upset price of the land sold was fixed at eight *bus* per *tsubo*, whereof six went to the Government, and two were "transferred to a Municipal fund to be formed at each settlement, and to be used for "the construction or repairs of roads and drains, lighting "the streets, or other Municipal purposes." (Land Regulations of Aug. 7th 1868.) Thus was formed the nucleus of the Kobe Municipal Fund. Moreover, by the same article of these Regulations, it was agreed that the Government should "consent to relinquish, for the uses of this "fund, a moiety of all money that may be realized at "the public sales of land at Osaka and Hiogo, over and "above the aforesaid upset price." As the land at Kobe sold for an amount largely above the upset price, the Municipality found itself started with a large fund, out of which the Municipal Hall, Jail, Police Barracks and Fire-Engine House were built, the roads made and footways paved, drains constructed, and, we think, the lamp posts bought. Still there remained a surplus, which has been since slightly increased by small balances of income over expenditure, and the Municipality has a 'reserve fund' of \$4,000 invested as a fixed deposit; but until a properly made-up capital account is presented to the public, we have a right to believe (and the writer is fairly well assured that the assumption is correct) that the cost of firewells and bell tower, and of the Recreation Ground, has also come out of this capital fund. Some slight deduction may be claimed on the items of Roads and Drains,—as we presume that the five years' repairs to these

are included in the Committee's figures, as also whatever has been spent in repairs on the Municipal Hall—these would all be properly chargeable to yearly expenditure account,—but if we allow \$10,000 for these, we shall still have \$34,000 as an error to score against the Committee.

Having thus formulated a charge of undue extravagance against the Municipal Councillors who have held the public purse for the last five years, and demonstrated, in this funny fashion, that out of a yearly income of \$12,600, they have in five years spent \$107,000, this Land-renters' Committee proceed to tell how they propose to not only make both ends meet, but to make them overlap, cut off a goodly remnant, and present it to the impecunious land-renters to put in their pockets. The owners of land in Kobe are mostly honest men, and we seriously doubt their acceptance of the gift. It is proposed to extinguish nearly half the lamps, impair the efficiency of the police, dock the Municipal Superintendent of two-fifths of his pay,—leaving him only \$150 per month,—and to abolish the annual fee of \$250 to the Medical officer. (Your Little Peddlington cheese-parers always cut down the doctor's pay: having no bowels themselves, they think that none of their servants can ever have a stomach-ache; besides, a doctor is a gentleman, and will feel too much contempt for them to complain.) These precious economies they justify thus. The gas-lamps, they say, are not required to light the streets for traffic, but are chiefly for the use of the police and prevention of burglary—which is perfectly true. But they argue that a ring of light round the outside of the place is quite enough for this, so they propose to extinguish 39 lamps within the settlement. They do not seem to see that burglars will thus have only to slip through the outer *cordon* of lamps,—where of course the beats of the policemen will be, to be of any use,—and they will then have the whole interior of the settlement as a happy hunting-ground. Arrangements should be made to direct some Ishikawa Goyemon of the neighbourhood to the houses and godowns of these seven economical accessories of his before the fact, that he may exhibit a little retributive robbery as a corrective to their folly.

The truly 'porochial' meanness of rewarding a faithful servant, who has worked very hard for a number of years to get the place into perfect order, by cutting down his pay nearly a-half, on the ground that he has left himself very little to do, is a good *pendant* to that of discharging the doctor; but it speaks for itself—it requires no comment. We pass to the ingenious way in which, having cut down Municipal expenditure, they would cut down Municipal income.

Article V. of the Land Regulations under which this Municipality exists provided that:—

"The Annual Rent of the said ground at Osaka and Hiogo shall be one *Bu* per *tsubo*, which shall be paid in advance into the Municipal Fund of each place, and shall be appropriated to the repairs of roads and drains, lighting the streets, or other Municipal purposes—subject however, to a first charge of one thousand five hundred and twenty four *Bu* at Osaka, and one thousand six hundred and forty one *Bu* at Hiogo, which sums shall be paid annually to the Japanese Government, as the ordinary land tax due on the said ground."

In addition, it was provided by another article, that in case it was required, a further sum, 'not exceeding one-third of a *bu* per *tsubo*' might be demanded of each land-renter. Availing himself of the fact that this latter tax was an elastic one, and being able to demonstrate that the Municipal service could be efficiently carried on,—police, lighting, and all, with the income from the land-tax alone, one of the elected members proposed, three years ago, to reduce the police-tax to the nominal impost of one *bu* per lot; and this proposition was carried. But there is no elasticity about the ground-rent mentioned in article V.

quoted above; whereas, having cut down their proposed expenditure, as detailed, to \$8,000 from \$12,600, these Kobe economists had to contrive some means of cribbing \$4,000 from their income. Our readers will hardly guess how they propose to achieve their object.

They propose to 'tamper with the currency'—to reduce the value of the *bu*. Disregarding the fact that both foreign and native Ministers agreed and mutually understood that a '*bu*,' for the purposes of this Convention, as for the customs, &c. &c. meant a silver *bu*, at three to the dollar,—they coolly propose to treat it as an abstract *bu*, at four to the paper *yen*. As payable according to treaty, they say, it is worth \$0.32.154—(these arithmeticians are as particular about their decimals as was Mr. Micawbor about his halfpence;) as payable according to them, it would only be worth twenty-two cents. And this neat little conversion, they point out, would reduce the Municipal revenue about \$4,000, and just balance accounts. As, however, it is at present only in the embryo form of a suggestion, we will neither christen it, nor attempt to father it upon anybody; enough to say that, if a man has to pay us sixpence and he attempts to palm off upon us a fourpenny-piece, we generally send for a policeman.

We need not go further into this precious 'Report,' though there are plenty of other fallacies and errors to expose. Such, for instance, as the argument, so clearly conceived by weak holders, that "a reduction of taxation" would increase the stability of the Municipal revenue, by "making lots more valuable, and tending to prevent their 'relinquishment.'" Should this foolish proposal be accepted, lots—on the other hand—will decline in value, for as, in another part of their Report, the writers propose an adjustment of the value of the *bu* annually, to suit each year's requirements, no buyer of land would know what ground-rent he might have to pay. And so on. But we have sufficiently criticised the document; it is a satisfaction to note that at its foot is not a single one of the names one is accustomed to see attached to public papers in Kobe, and though it is perfectly easy to believe that these agitators have a mob-majority at their backs,—majorities are always so stupid:—we have sufficient faith in the Consular Board and their present lay colleagues to believe, that they will treat as it deserves this petition or Report—should it ever be brought officially to their notice—by refusing to spoil the model settlement of Japan by false economy, and to descend to make paltry savings by meanness and chicanery—to satisfy either disgusted land-speculators or disappointed holders of kerosine lamps.

IN our last issue, we printed a couple of articles translated from the native press, on a subject which we discussed in the first number of this Review, a most interesting one to many of our mercantile readers—native and foreign—on the question: should, or should not, a limit be put to the production of silkworms' eggs. And in a foot note we mentioned that an assembly of representatives from the silk districts was immediately to meet in Tokio for the purpose of debating and deciding on the very important point—the number of egg cards which should be filled this year for home and foreign consumption. The *Hochi Shimbun* states in its issue of yesterday, that the members of this silkworms' eggs business Association met at their office in Tokio on the 22nd inst. and passed a resolution that the number of cards for the year should be limited to 130,000. But, the paper goes on to tell us:—'Tajima Yahei and ten others objected, and insisted that the production should not be limited at all. The Resolution, however, having been approved by a majority of the members, the President declared that, in accordance with Clause eight of the Regulations of the guild—(the *Hochi Shimbun* does not quote the section)—the Resolution must

be obeyed. Whereupon, those who objected to the limitation, still persisting in their opinion, refused to append their signatures to the necessary bond of agreement, and hurried off to the *Kuwan no kiyoku* (Board of Agriculture) to submit their views!' Here however, they appear to have got no comfort; for our correspondent goes on to tell us that, the decision having been legally arrived at, no one is of opinion that it will be overruled by Government.

Our foreign readers in the silk trade will not have failed to remark the characteristic shallow impertinence and superficial knowledge exhibited by a Japanese correspondent of another native paper, the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō*, who wrote from Italy, and whose letter we translated into an editorial note last week. 'Silk-merchants and silk-growers in this country' he wrote 'are, contrary to my expectation, inexperienced in judging of the quality of the silk-worm eggs,' and went on to predict that as foreign buyers looked only at marks, cards with the Akita stamp would be the popular brand this season. In another part of his letter he makes the ridiculous statement that Akita cards were worth on the spot fifteen *lire* per card, others being worth but two to three.

The fact is that Italian silk-growers, and Italian *graineurs* who come to Japan, know precisely as much on the subject as Yokohama Japanese egg-sellers, and that amounts to—nothing at all. A hen-wife will know whether an egg will produce a bantam chick or a black Spaniard, if she knows from what cross was produced the egg; and, in the same way, the only person who can predict in the least how silk-eggs are likely to turn out is the person who saw the cards filled and knows from what moths the eggs were born. What the Japanese correspondent from Italy says is quite true, as far as relates to the ignorance of foreigners, but his implied assumption of superior knowledge on the part of his own countrymen is absurd.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE OF SHINSHU IN THE YEAR 1847.

THE province of Shinshu or Shinano is divided into ten districts, or *kori*, and is 547,300 *koku* in area, that is, it produces this quantity of rice annually. It is one of the largest of all the Japanese provinces, and is both mountainous and well watered. It does not touch the sea on any side, and it lies quite in the centre of the main island of the Empire. The people are intelligent, thrifty and diligent, and the province furnishes us with celebrated natural productions in great abundance. What unutterable woe came in former years over this richly endowed region! Thirty years since, a terrible earthquake changed blooming fields into a desert, and populous towns and thriving villages into smoking heaps of rubbish.

From the evening of the 24th of the 3rd month of the year 1847 violent earthquake shocks, such as had never occurred since the most ancient times, were felt in the province. For a whole week before the earthquake, the weather was incessantly bad and close. About 12 o'clock on the night of the 24th, when these shocks were occurring, there is said to have been a shower of stars, and many averred that they saw a white streak in the shape of a rainbow, stretching across the sky, in a North-westerly direction. At 4 o'clock on the morning of the 25th the mountains began to quake, and a hollow noise, which was particularly loud in the neighbourhood of the Senko temple, became audible. At the same moment, mountains fell in, and water overflowed the land. This all occurred before people had time to warn each other by the cry of "Earthquake!" Simultaneously, subterranean noises were heard. Cracks in the earth, varying from five inches in width to ten feet, were formed, from which masses of brown earth, frequently sparks of fire in large quantities, were ejected.

The fall of the mountain Kokusan or Iwakurayama was especially grand and terrible. It is situated near the village of Hirabayashi, in the Sarashina district, about three *ri* on

the west side of Obahayama. Falls occurred at two different places; and one of these was 30 *chô* in height and 20 in length.* The Saikama valley was filled with the *débris*. Large rocks rolled as far the village of Nubi in Nubi district, nearly a *ri* south of Magaribashi. The mass which fell from the Northern side of Kokusosan was fifteen *chô* high and twenty broad. The *débris* here completely buried the villages of Fujikura and Furagado. Owing to the filling up of the river bed with this *débris*, the water rose to a height of seventy or eighty feet, and inundated five or six villages, whereby innumerable human beings and cattle found a speedy and terrible death. On the north of Iwakurayama, a rock 60 feet in height fell down. In the lower part of the river, the water disappeared completely, and at the ferries of Nagai, Murayama, Tambashima, and Koichi, the boats were destroyed by the sudden and extraordinary diminution of the water. The inhabitants of the neighbouring villages were enabled to run from one bank to the other without wetting their feet.

Previously, the river flowed so swiftly in the neighbourhood of these ferries, that boats could not be ferried across with poles alone, hence a rope, carried from shore to shore, was always used for that purpose. At the time of the quaking, an individual crossing the river at the ferry of Koichi had arrived nearly in the middle of the stream when the hill began to move, the water rose high, and the rope was broken in an instant; even large boats were driven by the stream to a distance of a *ri*, and were carried almost up on the Sewaki hill. After a short time, the water disappeared very suddenly, and in the bed of the river an enormous cleft was formed, from which suddenly a hill was seen to arise. Many people and horses were swallowed in this cleft, but the boat which was on the rope escaped in a marvellous manner. The newly formed mountain, five *chô* in breadth, arose between Koichi and Komagunbara. It had to be removed afterwards, in order to prevent other inundations, and six thousand coolies were necessary for this purpose, and with the material of which it was formed, an embankment ten *chô* in length was constructed.

Other mountain slips occurred at Mushigurataki, chiefly on the south side, by means of which the villages of Yori, Fujisawa, and Tikobora were completely buried. The Todinigawa became choked, and both houses and fields were destroyed by the flood.

The sources of the Kagesusubanagawa were completely filled with earth, so that their waters could find no outlet. Fissures in the earth and landslips occurred chiefly in places situated on the north-west of the river. Liquid substance, earth, and flames were ejected from the fissures. In many places, depressions and elevations of the surface of the earth occurred, but these were so numerous that no account can be given of them here.

The formation of new hot springs, and the total disappearance of old ones during earthquakes, is remarkable; and it has also happened that the hot water of springs was changed into cold.

On the morning of the 28th the waters of the Sudzanagawa returned to their former course. At 12 o'clock on the 29th the shocks recommenced, again also with great destructiveness. This earthquake was particularly violent at Takata and Imamachi in Echizen, and the latter place was burned to the ground. Towards the end of the third month, the water at the Iwakura embankment rose about seven or eight feet, and in the beginning of the fourth month it rose three feet daily.

Shortly before 11 o'clock on the seventh day of the fourth month, a violent storm, accompanied by a heavy fall of hail, broke suddenly over the district,—the sky in the southwest, at the same time, looking black as ink. The rain became heavier and heavier during the night, and the following day Togakuchiyama looked as if it had been washed. From that time violent rainstorms occurred daily; the water increased with irresistible violence, and at the second embankment of Iwakura it rose nearly twenty feet. From ten a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 10th the storm was of tremendous force; torrents of rain fell, and the gale blew down large trees. The people were seized with unutterable terror; they feared that the Saikawa would overflow with more dreadful consequences than before. Every one seized

* A *chô* is about 1-15th of a statute mile (Branssen) so that two miles of the mountain side slipped down, for a distance of a mile and a third. Ed. J. T.

their goods, and fled to the more elevated parts of the district. This terrible storm seems to have spread over a large tract of country, as in the provinces of Mino and Owari, houses were blown down by the force of the gale.

The waters of the Saikawa remained for nearly twenty days spread over the land. All the villages on its banks were under water, and the inundation extended as far as Tikuma and Adzumi. An immense area of water, extending as far as the eye could reach, about eight or nine *ri* in length, flowed through the two districts of Minuchi and Sarachina, and spread as far as Ikuno, Hisaka, and Uraka. The tops of the hills appeared above the surface of the water like islands in the sea. On the 13th, after two hours of beautiful weather, frightful hollow noises were heard about six o'clock in the evening; earthquake shocks were felt at the same time. The first embankment at Iwakura burst; the mass of water rushed forward with immense force over hills and valleys; and the mighty roar was heard in distant places, such as Mazugiro, Susaka, and Nakano. "I, Shogen, was on the summit of Seidosan at Umizu (Haizu), when after a time I heard a rushing sound which continued for some time. It sounded as if it came from a place in the immediate neighbourhood. After a few moments, the water rushed to the westward, and the roaring of the waves was heard re-echoing among the hills. The foggy clouds, which hardly rose from the valleys were driven to the north and east. The storm carried sand and gravel away; and on me the raging struggle of the wild unfettered elements made the same impression as if myriads of wild horses were chased about on a large plain, and it seemed as if heaven and earth had collapsed."

After the bursting of the embankment the water at the foot of Magamiyama was over 61 feet. The frightful force with which the flood overcame every obstacle is beyond description. The main stream flowed towards the south, through Koichi, Kamagabana, Imasato and Imai; it flowed as far as Onbaigawa, and there united with the Zikuma-gawa. A second stream took its course through Shioku, Nakashima, Nanboku, Haramura, Ai, Komori and Yikuma-gawa. In the evening as the sun went down, the third main stream took its course through Kitakawabara, Mumesawa, Kakami, and Higana; destroying everything as it rolled on, it flowed to the south of Tanbashima, and then wasted Riyo-Ozuka and Kashima, and went as far as Yamatahara where it joined the others. The height of the water at Tikuma was now over twenty feet. At 10 o'clock in the evening, the stream had a breadth of six *ri* from east to west, and on the north side it extended to the main road into Echizen. At two o'clock on the morning of the 14th, the quantity of water had diminished considerably, and at sunrise it formed three large rivers. At four o'clock on the 14th the flood reached Niigata, and an area of fifty *ri* was inundated. At noon on the 17th, several thunder-claps were heard, and a furious storm, which destroyed many houses, broke out at the same moment. In the Saku district in Koshu much damage was occasioned by a violent hail-storm.

On the 28th the sun was of the colour of the *Beni* (saffron plant), and lost its glittering light. On the 20th of the 6th month, claps of thunder were heard here and there; many houses were thrown down, and both men and horses lost their lives. During the first three days of the seventh month the earth shook day and night; and at four o'clock on the morning of the 19th these shocks recommenced, so that the terrified inhabitants left their houses and lived in the open air at the same time, the waters of the Sushanagawa, Sitogawa, &c., overflowed their banks, and ravaged the country as far as Tenkôji, carrying away many houses. On the 20th of the 8th month the Kayagawa returned to its old bed. At the end of the tenth month, the shakings and subterranean noises were often heard.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Japanese Government can again point to that of England as giving it a precedent for controlling the native Press. More than once lately have English statesmen had to suspend Irish newspapers which were preaching sedition, and we now find the Government of India putting a curb on the vernacular Press of India. The

Bombay Gazette, a Liberal paper of the highest class, thus records the circumstance in its issue of March 18th:—

"The principal event of the week has been the sudden passing by the Government of India of a Bill establishing a severe censorship over the vernacular press of India. The reason alleged for the introduction of the Bill is that the vernacular press is distinctly disloyal and is addicted to making unfavourable comparisons between the power of England and Russia. The policy of introducing such a Bill at the present moment cannot but be condemned as it exaggerates the importance of the vernacular press and the influence of Russia in Indian affairs."

"We understand that the Secretary of State has by telegraph approved of the general scope of the Vernacular Press Bill and of its being introduced and passed through the Legislative Council. This seems to show that for political reasons the passing of the Bill has been suggested by the English Government."

We cannot agree with our Indian contemporary in condemning the action of Government. The half-educated classes in India who read the vernacular papers have the same influence over the wholly uneducated classes, who cannot read at all, as is the case here, and are just as excitable, superstitious, and easily led by designing men. It will be long ere either India or Japan is fitted to receive and utilize the not wholly unmixed blessing of a free Press.

THE name of Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen will recall to our readers' memory the visit to England, years ago, of this distinguished Hindoo scholar and theologian who, as a sort of Indian Protestant and Reformer, was received by the religious world of England with the honours due to a Luther. His portrait was given in a full page engraving in the *Graphic* and *Illustrated News* and his lectures were listened to with enthusiastic admiration by full audiences at Exeter Hall, St. James' Hall and elsewhere. Specially did he take up his parable about the education of women in India, the abolition of polygamy, and the enervating practice of early marriages. The wily Baboo has just married his daughter to the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, to the frenzied indignation of the Bramo-somaj party—that of Young India—whose apostle and Gamaliel the old gentleman has hitherto been. The boy and girl are both very young, the Maharajah may take as many wives as he likes, and the only consolation remaining to the reforming party is that no idolatrous rites took place at the marriage ceremony. The Maharajah's numerous mammas, on the other hand, are tearing their hair because the idolatrous rites were not performed, that nothing of the ceremony was Indian except the paltry feeding of 5,000 beggars, that the daughter of such an infidel as Chunder Sen should enter his harem at all; and also that the British Government proposes to send the young gentleman to England to be educated. As the people of his State also object to his going, and as he certainly won't be allowed to take his bride to school with him, the prospects of the Maharajah of Cooch Behar's enjoying a peaceful honeymoon are dubious.

FROM our Hongkong exchanges, we learn that the Hon. J. Gardiner Austin, the Colonial Secretary, has taken his final departure for Europe from Hongkong. The name of this venerable public servant has been long before the public of the Far East, and a few of the older residents of Yokohama will remember his son, who was for some time in the house of Jardine, Matheson & Co. and for a few months represented it here, and whose untimely death cut short a promising career. The Colonial List tells us that Mr. Austin filled various appointments, as Magistrate, assistant Government Secretary and immigration agent in British Guiana from 1849 to 1864, when he was appointed lieutenant-governor of Honduras. In 1868 he was made Colonial Secretary at Hongkong, which post he has since filled with credit.

THE Hongkong papers are much exercised by the promotion of Mr. J. M. Price, the present Surveyor General, to fill Mr. Austin's place, temporarily, as Acting Colonial Secretary,—over the heads of others with ostensibly stronger claims, notably Mr. Cecil Smith. Considering that the appointment is only an 'acting' one, for a few weeks or months, until Mr. Austin's successor is appointed by the Colonial office and that Mr. Cecil's Smith's relations with

the Governor are anything but amicable, we should imagine that this latter gentlemen feels less aggrieved by Mr. Price being preferred to himself than his friends in the Hongkong Press.

DURING the short holiday vouchsafed to us at Easter, the opportunity was taken by a correspondent, of inspecting the salmon breeding establishment opened by the *Gaimusho* at Tana, on the banks of the Sagami river, and he has been good enough to place his notes at our disposal for record. The buildings erected for the purpose, it appears, are of the simplest character, consisting of a shed to cover the hatching troughs, and a house—we might rather say a hut—for the keepers. The water is supplied through bamboo ducts from a hill-side rill, and after serving the troughs, is discharged into the rearing tank, adjoining the hatching house. The ova are procured from the Kanagawa river in Mito. As this is the first year of the experiment, it is too soon yet to speak of the results thereof, or of the chances of success. We can only state what has been done. Some 50,000 fry have been already placed in the pools of the river, and a corresponding number are now in the rearing tank, shortly to be turned out, as soon as they are big enough to take care of themselves. Every care seems to be bestowed on the fry, even to the doctoring of the sick and ailing, and nearly all of them were, at the time of the visit, in thriving condition. The Government, too, has not been unmindful of the protection of the young ones after they have left the tanks, and have been turned into the pools. All fishing in the river has been stopped for two months. So far, so good. But to complete the success of the scheme, they must go further, and issue Regulations prohibiting the use of nets with a smaller mesh than—say four inches, the taking of unclean fish and the taking of salmon under a certain weight. It would be beneficial, too, if certain lengths of the river were set apart, in which fishing, and that with the rod and line only, could alone be had under the license of the government. Such a scheme would soon result in the stocking of the river with well sized fish, while the fees charged for license to fish in the preserved waters would, in a great measure, recoup the Government for its expenditure. On the other hand, if some restrictions are not placed on the use of the seine,—or of the cast-net, with its very destructive small mesh, which is now in vogue among Japanese fishermen, the Government can hope to do little more than, out of a year-by-year importation, obtain at great cost a supply of a few under-sized, unseasoned fish. Interference by restrictions like these, to check the improvidence of the individual, for the ultimate benefit of the community, is one of the legitimate acts of a Government often necessitated by the ignorance, selfishness, or recklessness of the subject.

The Sagami River is well adapted to the culture of the salmon, or its congener, the trout, which already flourishes in the upper waters, and under proper regulation, the fishery should become a source of wealth to the district fishermen, and a means of recreation for the angler. We shall watch the progress of the scheme with great interest for the sake of all concerned; and our interest would be greatly increased, if the salmon of Mito were susceptible to the blandishments of the fly; it remains for us to hope that a change of scene and *habitat* may have changed their nature.

WITH Bank holidays at the beginning of the week and Athletic sports half-holidays at the other, both import and export markets have seen but little business. Exchange has remained in *statu quo* and for the few alterations in prices which we have to note in our goods market, we refer our readers to our page of Quotations without further remark.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to

think that he or some one else may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can any one say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosai" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, some other student may be able to do the same for it.

3.—Can any account be got of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c.

(Unanswered.)

X.

Qr. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction.

(Unanswered.)

B. A.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat; the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium temulentum* or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineae*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions.

(Unanswered.)

R. N.

Qy. 11. Many of your readers, when walking towards the new cemetery, must have remarked the *tumuli*, about twelve in number, which dot the table land which lies above Ota on the one side, and the hill of Tobe on the other. These *tumuli* are religiously preserved from the spoiling of the farmer, and must have some history; are they the burying-places of heroes fallen in some old quarrel? Can any of your readers enlighten me?

(First time of asking.)

T.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, April 26th.

THE *City of Peking* from San Francisco arrived on Tuesday last, having left port on the 1st instant. The *Volga* bringing the Marseilles mail of the 10th of March anchored in the harbour at 5.30 p.m. yesterday. The *Malacca* with the London mail of the 15th of March left Hongkong on the 23rd inst., two days behind schedule time. The *Tanais* leaves on the 1st proximo with the French mail due in London June 20th and the *Chion* is advertised to sail for San Francisco on the 4th proximo. The *Nagasaki Maru* leaves on May 1st for Shanghai and ports. An onward and inward Shanghai and coast ports steamer completes our mail steamer intelligence for the past week.

The opening of a new Tea season is signified by the arrival of the flight of Tea-tasters who arrived by the *City of Peking* from America on the 23rd inst. From a glance at her long passenger

list, one is led to believe that the party she brings must have spent three very enjoyable weeks. There is a great deal of fun to be got out of a voyage like this, in a good ship, with a pleasant captain and a party of passengers the majority of which are well acquainted with each other. Private theatricals, concerts, readings or lectures, sometimes a little magazine, may be got up—according to the tastes and idiosyncrasies of the leading spirits among them. The writer has lively and most agreeable reminiscences of several such voyages. On one he learnt piquet, and fancy what a solace that will be to his declining years! On another, he enjoyed one of the most agreeable and successful amateur concerts ever arranged, there being luckily on board four or five passengers with such voices as are seldom heard off the Italian stage. A third was made in company with a great actor, who graciously entertained his fellow-passengers one evening with readings from Shakespeare. Epigrams, on another, were the order of the day. An example from our common-place book may not be unwelcome. It was written on the subject of the Doctor, who, we had ascertained, got a very poor salary from the Company, but made a decent livelihood by embalming defunct passengers. He used to complain bitterly that the Company, since an economical Direction had come into power, had docked him of half his fees and made him find his own Carbolic Acid:—

"IN MUMMIFECEM."

"Our Doctor's so clever—don't let it alarm us,
If he cannot preserve us, he'll nicely embalm us;
He eats a good breakfast—then stuffs a Chinese,
Before dinner a second, and one after tea,
A fourth for his supper; then, perfectly placid,
Goes to bed with a tumbler of carbolic acid,
Perhaps two or three—and then after his toddies
Dreams sweetly of fees upon pickled deal bodies."

We were delighted to welcome back to Yokohama, ex *City of Peking*, our deservedly popular American Consul, General Van Buren. His occupation of a berth in the ship is a thoroughly good guarantee, alone, that her passengers must have had as pleasant a trip as any of those to which we have referred above. Now that he has re-assumed the curule chair, we shall look to him to help us to crawl out of our Municipal slough.

Apropos, we beg to put a case to the Consular Board. In the middle of the foot path in the Main Street, just opposite the Roman Catholic Church, are a couple of heavy wooden iron-bound flaps, about two feet square, which cover the openings through which access is had to the fire-wells. During the past week, on three occasions, the writer has passed these late at night and found them half-opened, thus making a most dangerous obstruction on a moonless night. Nothing but the extreme wariness which grows out of the necessity of traversing our unlighted streets when most other people are snug in bed (and the old-fogey habit of carrying a 'chocking') saved him from breaking a leg. In case of such an accident, who could be proceeded against for damages,—the Fire Brigades, the Roman Catholic priests, or the Japanese Government?

Mr. Wilkinson has inaugurated his reign as acting Consul by an extremely cunning use of the 'iron hand in the velvet glove.' In common, apparently, with three folio chit-book pages' full of brother culprits, the writer had been hugging himself for the last six weeks in the belief that surely, in his insignificance, he at least had escaped the modern Poll-Tax gatherer's eagle eye for this year, and had resolved most gratefully to devote the 'sov' towards swelling Mr. Forsyth's retaining fee, whenever China and Japan mercur hants should wake up their minds to resist this infringement on the Bill of Rights. But, yesterday afternoon, presto! himself an apparitor, A.H.M.S., and a cold perspiration bedews the face as the envelope is broken open! The feeling of relief excited by finding,—instead of a summons and a threatened fine,—a neatly printed form, with a polite request for a few lines of manuscript in the blank spaces and a trifle of five dollars; the feeling of relief is so intense that the blanks are filled up without thinking and the poll-tax tooth extracted for once, without a pang! Permission to be a British subject for another year avorns our ———— to R.I.B. Britannia,—Britannia rules the waves;—Britons never, never, never will be slaves!!

Great excitement has been caused this week by the movements of the English and Russian squadrons. Ruler's Lytlebank on Sunday the 15th had gone out of the harbour. About half-past two in the afternoon the *Delphin* sailed under the *Maggie*, followed; and the *Albatross* sailed. The entrance to the harbour till the *Delphin* was out, was guarded and he intended to convey her to the entrance of the strait, still the Russians have received news of a fleet of gun-boats of which we were ignorant. Our leading anti-fleet ship shot that this is a contingency not altogether out of the realm of possibility.

The wireless telegraph, long a phantasm communication with Shanghai has been restored but the telegrams are not very satis-

factory. For instance, Baron Reuter must have sent the following messages, which we got on Thursday last, for merely perfunctory reasons, in fulfilment of his contracts:—

"London, April 23rd, 1878.—The warlike situation remains unimproved. Austria is vacillating over what action she shall adopt, and there is an essential difference in the views of Russia and England."

He might have as well telegraphed a verse from *Alice in Wonderland* of 'Tweedle dum and Tweedle dee, prepared to have a battle.' What we want from the Baron are 'facts,'—we can form our own opinions, and draw our deductions, for ourselves.

During the week there have been some land sales, the prices realized, we are sorry to note, giving a poor look-out for land-holders. One lot, decidedly one of the most beautifully situated on either Bluff, known as 'Paradise,' prettily wooded and commanding three exquisite land or sea-scapes, sold for only \$900. Last week, for \$1,200, another purchaser got a lot, with a pretty little villa upon it, which must have cost at least three times the money to build. The crushing ground-rent exacted by the native Government really constitutes a quite legitimate grievance, and we trust that, in the give-and-take Revision of the Treaties now under consideration, our Representatives will obtain some reduction thereof, in exchange for some one or other of the numerous concessions asked for by the Japanese. The exaction of such rents militates strongly against investment of foreign capital, and the consequent creation of a class of resident foreigners interested in the stability of the Government and the prosperity of the country. It is odd that in a country like this, so poor in accumulated wealth, the Government should not be able to see the benefits which would accrue from attracting, instead of repelling, foreign money.

The *Chihokuwan Kuwaigi*, (Assembly of Provincial Governors) was debating during last week, first on a new subdivision of the country into districts, villages and streets, as in ancient times, the larger divisions of *Ken* and *Fu* being retained as at present. This was a short bill and soon passed. The next subject was one of greater importance and has occupied the Assembly several days. It is nothing less than a proposal to establish municipal Government with a representative system, a fairly conservative franchise, with a property qualification, proportional representation and vote by ballot. The whole system is at present vitiated by the Municipalities being only allowed to discuss such matters as the Provincial Governors place before them, and also by the power vested in the same officers of closing the debate whenever anything is said, which they deem seditious. But in this column we must not anticipate what we shall probably have to say in our leading columns, when the Bill shall have been completed and passed.

Some excitement has been caused in the capital by the arrest of several prominent Tosa men, amongst them Oyo Taku, late Gonrei (deputy-Governor) of this *Ken*. Our readers will remember that, at the time of the Satsuma rising, great fears were entertained lest Tosa should also rebel: but clan jealousy kept the province quiet except from talking. Now, when any attempt against the Government would be hopeless, we hear of arms having been secretly collected, and other symptoms of a conspiracy being detected, of which these recent arrests are the consequence. There does not seem to be the least cause for alarm.

We hear that it is proposed to hold a Regatta on the 24th of May, in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, and under the auspices of the Bowing Club. There are to be, if sufficient entries can be obtained, yacht racing, races for open sailing boats, and events in which the men-of-war and merchantmen can compete, in addition to the races among the members of the Y.A.R.C. These events, if the entry-papers are well filled, should afford a good day's sport, and it only remains to pray for 'Queen's weather' for their decision. Of course, the funds of the Y.A.R.C. are not in a position to justify that association defraying the whole cost of the Regatta, if attractive prizes are to be given, as well as the expenses of entertaining our guests, and we presume an appeal will be made to the community for assistance. It will certainly be generously responded to, as soon as the Y.A.R.C. shows us more than one four-oar occasionally out for practice in the bay. When the programme is published, we will give fuller notice to the subject; meanwhile we wish the Y.A.R.C. good weather and a successful meeting.

The Athletic Club were favoured, for their first day's meeting to-day, with weather almost as fair as the ladies who graced the stand. The tender green of Spring, clothing the surrounding hills with varying verdure, wherever the eye rested, shaded here and there by sombre evergreens, or lighted by the delicate blossom of the cherry or the plum; the waving plumes of the graceful bamboo, with here and there a speck of brilliant maple, together made a background for the bed of flowers which seemed to fill the Grand Stand, and the whole made a picture which a spectator will not easily forget. It was to be regretted that we had not, as on other

occasions, the stirring strains of a band, to please another sense; but the low ripple of laughter and the hum of conversation filled the intervals between the several contests as pleasantly as music.

The sport was inaugurated, punctually at 2 p.m., the time appointed, by the preliminary heats of the 'sprint' races: and an attempt to hit a wicket with a cricket ball was made without success by some eight or nine would-be cricketers and others. We would suggest to the Committee of the Athletic Club, that this should be admitted as a feature of their programme for the Autumn Meeting only, after some practice can have been had with the ball. Also we would recommend that bad cricket should not be encouraged, by giving a prize for a full-pitched throw, instead of for the delivery of the ball, as it should be sent in, with a single bound, as if into a wicket-keeper's hands. The judgment for this event should go by 'points,' given in accordance with this principle. For the long throw with the cricket-ball, we were glad to see the winner turn up in a member of the Fourth Estate—Mr. Clode, of the *Japan Gazette*. He made a moderate, but straight throw of 75 yards.

The real business of the day began with the race for the Champion Cup (quarter-mile). We had to deplore the absence of Mr. Watson, the winner at two previous meetings and of Mr. Walker, his antagonist at the last, both of whom had broken down in training. In their absence, only two started, and the prize fell to Mr. A. H. Dare, the brother of the donor: he was never approached, and won in the slow time of 60 sec. The boy's race (1st heat) then afforded much amusement, while six competitors were preparing for the race of the day—the Ladies' Purse (660 yards). In this race, previous winners are heavily penalized, with the express object of excluding them from all chance of success, and 60 yards is handicapping enough to stop the best of men if he meets competitors worth beating. For a quarter of a mile there was a good race between Vincent and Playfair, but after that, the latter gave in, leaving the former to come in an easy winner by twenty yards. A. H. Dare struggled hard under the disadvantage of the long start he had to give the winner, but though going strong all the way, he lacks the turn of speed necessary to make up for such a crushing penalty. Miss Brooke presented the Purse to the winner, and in a few gracefully spoken and appropriate words, congratulated him on his success. Mr. Kilby, the Secretary of the A.A.C., then presented her with a bouquet, on behalf of the competitors. The quarter-mile handicap produced an excellent race, won by Mr. Poulter, R. N. in 57 seconds: Walker, from scratch, struggled gamely, in spite of his lack of condition, but could only get up third. The winner was greeted in a most enthusiastic way by cheers from the sailors on the ground. The Mile Walking Race gave us the only really closely contested race of the day. Clode, the limit man, made but slight use of his start, and at the top of the back stretch in the first lap was caught by Ward; the two raced together from this point, toe and toe, until the completion of the third lap, when Clode spurted, and left his man about ten yards; Lingham, R.N. had meanwhile closed up with the leading pair; up the back stretch the relative positions were maintained, but going round the turn at the top, both second and third closed in on the leader, and the three entered the straight for home dead level. The pace now became very fast, too fast for Clode, who gave in—quite walked out—about fifty yards from home, leaving Mr. Lingham to win a very fast race in 9 min. 3 sec., very well-deserved and vociferous cheers greeting his victory. A Tug of War between the 'Salts' and a shore team, however, turned the tables on the sons of Neptune, who were defeated in the easiest possible manner; the civilians weighing an average, however, of some twelve stone, we should say, to the Sailor's ten, did not boast of much of a triumph. Tomorrow will be run off the deciding heats of the sprint races, and the half-mile; which, with the steeple-chase, and other events will give us another capital afternoon's sport.

By the way, would our readers like to have acrostics? They appear to titillate the brains of a good many Yokohama residents on Sunday afternoon in an agreeable manner, and as they seem to be quite the fashion in the London weekly papers, we have no objection to set aside a corner of the *Japan Times* where such rubbish may be shot, albeit at a certain small sacrifice of the dignity of 'this Review.' Our subscribers have only to ask and have: they are easily made. Meanwhile, as a puzzle of rather severer nature, here is a *menu* in Latin, which we came across to-day in turning out an old box of odds and ends. The dinner was given by an eminent London surgeon of our acquaintance, on the occasion of a number of old fellow-pupils coming up from the country to attend a medical congress of some sort or other; and the idea occurred to him of having the *carte* written in 'prescription Latin.' Here's the result, and if any of our friends can send us the

menu in cook's French—well, we cannot give him as good a dinner as that was, but we shall be glad to do our best for him next Saturday night at 7.30.

DIE V. MENSIS AUGUSTI, 1873.

CHARTA PRANDIOSA.

Sorbitio Chelonis perlucida.
Pisorum turgidum, sicut apud Condé, jusculum.

Simplices Hæculæ atque piperatæ.

Rhombus, Homarique condimentum.
Salmonis, Armoracis cum jure, frigida segmenta.

Olivæ Hispanicæ condituris fortæ.

Aura, more thesaurario.
Coturnices, cum Lycopersicis comminutis, exossatæ.
Lardo suffixi, Cucumeris super assulas, Thymi Agnorum.

Hepar opinatam secundum Lucullum.

Clunis ferina assa.

Acetaria, more Italico.

Lepuscula. Meleagris parvula.

Tubera in Mappa instructa.

Malorum Armeniacorum conditus, crustulatâ inclusus.
Gelatina, more Scythico, multicolorata.
Flatus glaciatus Vanillâ odoratus.
Caseus, condito cum Selino albato.

Tosta apud Hæcem siccata.

Not often in a life time does one get a dinner like this, and not only did it deserve—to follow out Dr. Johnson's theory on epitaphs—to be written in Latin, but it merited being printed, as it was, in gold!

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XVII. TORTURE.

AT the Palace of Pleasure, the three conspirators, Hidetsugu, Bansaku and Kumagaya (who had been admitted to the Minister's confidence) impatiently awaited the result of Goyemon's enterprise. Bansaku was the most sanguine, yet not the least anxious. It did not occur to him, indeed, to associate Ishikawa's action with failure, but he remembered that his success would be only a preliminary, and that the possibility of utilizing that success depended on a condition mainly under the control of chance.

The interval between dawn and the conclusion of Goyemon's attempt must be sufficient for Bansaku's own undertaking. A day's delay would render the precautions suggested by the absence of the censor no less formidable than its presence at the Regent's side.

Strange to say, this consideration had not occurred in time to be profitable. No doubt the danger of tardiness as well as his own natural energy would accelerate Goyemon's proceedings, but in the absence of instructions to the contrary, anything might induce delay, and delay too probably meant ailure and disgrace for Bansaku. Still the idea of retreat never presented itself. It was sufficient that he had promised, whatever that promise involved, and so, concealing his anxiety as best he could, he waited.

But when the hours, wearing slowly on, brought only feeble moonlight and the interminable drone of the cicadas, apprehensions, no longer contingent but actual, began to visit the watchers. What if Goyemon were taken with the tabard in his possession? Taiko could not fail to recognize his gift to the Minister, and then discovery and ruin would depend entirely on Goyemon's fortitude. And a wondrous fortitude it must indeed be, to resist the tortures that would assuredly be employed to shake it. Bansaku found the conception so terrible that necessity alone, he determined, should oblige him to entertain it.

Two hours after dawn a messenger from the Regent's court arrived at the palace. Received by Bansaku and Kumagaya, he described the attempted theft of the Lapwing censor, and its envelopment by the robber in a brocade tabard, so closely resembling the Nobunaga heirloom, that the Regent had ex-

pressed a wish to compare the two, and with this object sent him, the messenger, to carry the Minister's tabard to Fushimi.

Bansaku at once adopted the only course that offered any reasonable prospect of extricating his master from this dilemma. He said that having charge of the tabard himself, he would immediately carry it to Fushimi, and begged the messenger to precede him with this assurance. It seemed only honourable that he should assume the whole responsibility of a crisis induced by his own counsels, and under the influence of this impulse he set out for Fushimi, rejoicing, if the truth were told, in the prospect of anticipating his dishonour by death.

The revelations to be extorted from Ishikawa Goyemon were of so important a nature that the Regent signified his intention of being present himself at the examination, which was accordingly deferred till the receipt of the Prime Minister's answer. Bansaku therefore found the Privy Council assembled in expectation of his arrival, and could not fail to observe the significant looks exchanged as he presented himself empty-handed. Knowing however, how essential it was that his statement should not be disfigured by any confusion or hesitation, he introduced himself simply as an emissary commissioned to convey his master's congratulations on the fortunate arrest of the thief and the rescue of the precious censor. This induced a recapitulation of the circumstances attending the capture, and during the conversation that ensued, Bansaku, by certain unmistakable indications, arrived at a conviction that filled him with consternation: behind a curtain that draped the north side of the council chamber, Taiko was seated listening.

No incident could have suggested a more disturbing idea of the Regent's suspicions. Bansaku did not abandon his programme, but he prosecuted it thenceforth without hope.

"I understand," he said, looking unflinchingly at Sir Ishida, who acted as the Council's spokesman, "that the thief had in his possession a tabard of crimson brocade, closely resembling the one given to my master by—is His Highness. I hope sincerely it may prove to be the same, for His Excellency's tabard disappeared from the palace some ten days ago."

At this announcement, the five Councillors involuntarily turned their eyes towards the silk curtain, as though they expected to behold an intensified reflection of their own emotion. Ishida, however, quickly recovering himself, said significantly:—

"It is unfortunate that some report of this loss was not made before, Sir Bansaku."

"It is unfortunate," answered the comptroller, "but the fault is altogether mine. Believing that the measures I had taken could not fail to recover the tabard, and knowing how much its disappearance would distress my master, I have carefully concealed the fact from his knowledge. Under the circumstances my error can only be amended by my death, and I entreat you, my Lords, in the name of all that is just and honourable, to intercede with His Highness, so that he may accept my life and restore the tabard to my master."

An ironical smile spread over Ishida's face as Bansaku spoke. It was so very transparent, the device of this honest man, who constantly committed the error of accrediting others with his own guilelessness. Nevertheless the answer was courteous and conciliatory:—

"I think I may say in my colleagues' name as well as my own, Sir Bansaku, that we fully appreciate your motives, and will gladly give you our assistance. With your permission, I will at once take the Regent's instructions."

A little reassured by the councillor's tone, Bansaku awaited the result of an interview which fortunately for himself he did not witness. Taiko, as was the habit of his nature, had passed from willing incredulity to indignant conviction. His wrath only needed an agent to become destructive.

Even now, however, everything might be jeopardized by precipitancy, and for the first time, Ishida found himself acting the rôle of an honest intercessor. He pointed out that Goyemon's confession would assuredly supply irrefragable proof of Hidetsugu's treason, and consequently of his chief vassals' complicity also, but that in the interim it was essential to temporize with Bansaku, lest he should establish his statement by suicide, as he was evidently prepared to do, and thus in a great measure invalidate the admissions extracted from the prisoner.

Taiko yielded to these arguments, and Ishida, returning to the Council Chamber, informed Bansaku that the Regent accepted his excuses, but not the sacrifice he proposed, for if

the loss of the tabard warranted a charge of culpable negligence, what should be said of the censor, saved from a similar fate by mere accident? The comptroller might therefore be assured of His Highness' sympathy, and Ishida charged himself with the restitution of the tabard in due course. Bansaku had no choice but to accept this decision, though its excessive suavity confirmed, rather than relieved, his disquiet.

Everything now depended on Ishikawa Goyemon's confession.

Beyond the extremity of the most westerly wing of the castle stood a building of more than ordinarily solid construction, surrounded by tall bamboos, and connected with the main edifice by a long, covered alley. A high palisade, starting from the entrance of this alley and stretching away among the groves at either side, prevented approach or scrutiny, though indeed light and vision seemed already sufficiently baffled by the closely barred gratings which, hardly descending to the level of the eaves, constituted the only openings in the sombre area of three sides of the structure. Stern and forbidding in its exterior aspect, the interior of the building presented at first sight the appearance of a hall destined for mechanical experiments or some rude species of gymnastics. The floor was for the most part of clay, beaten to consistency and worn to ruggedness, but at one end a raised dais, matted and not devoid of embellishment, formed the foreground of a recess shrouded by bamboo blinds. Ropes, leather bands, pulleys, iron rods, an instrument resembling a close pinned harrow and two piles of heavy flat stones furnished the left of the room, while the right was occupied by a narrow platform, the timbers of which were laid so as to form a rough surface after the fashion of a saw's teeth. This platform served apparently for the passage, backwards and forwards, of a large wooden horse mounted on rollers, and remarkable for the shape of, its back, which instead of being round, terminated above in a long, sharp edge.

This was the Inquisition Hall of the castle. In the recess of the bamboo blinds the Regent himself was seated, while the dais was occupied by Ishida and Nagatsuka, councillors of state, attended by a number of inferior officers.

Goyemon was led in with his arms bound behind his back. As soon however as he had been placed kneeling before the dais, his hands were released and the bonds transferred to his feet. He made no semblance of obeisance to his judges, but stared at Sir Ishida with a look of smiling disdain that disconcerted the councillor not a little.

"What is your name, burglar?" demanded Ishida haughtily.

"Sakichi, a page and tea-server," was the mocking answer, delivered so rudely that the audience were more disposed to marvel at the prisoner's temerity, than to be amused at this allusion to the baron's early career. Ishida himself seemed the least concerned of all. He pursued, calmly:—

"Your name can, as you well know, be easily ascertained, and you will do well not to augment your crime by frivolous impertinence."

But Goyemon, directing his attention to the recess where the Regent sat concealed, treated Sir Ishida's rebuke with complete indifference. The baron therefore resumed:—"We are perfectly well aware, that, in attempting to steal the Lapwing-censer, you were merely acting as another's agent. This fact, though it extenuates your crime, does not excuse it. You have it in your own power however, to save your life by confessing the name of your employer, observing that if you refuse to do so, every bone in your body will be broken before you leave this room."

Goyemon prefaced his answer to this terrible threat by a contemptuous laugh. "I am at the head of my profession," he said, "and acknowledge no authority but my own will. Taiko valued his censor; so did I, but as I saw no prospect of his giving it to me, I determined to take it. I congratulate you all on my failure, and since you desire a confession, I am willing to admit"—here he paused to enjoy the interest his words excited—"I am willing to admit that I acted as the agent of—Ishikawa Goyemon."

Sir Ishida was for a moment deceived, but observing the mocking expression of Goyemon's countenance, understood that this was a fresh impertinence.

"Your own name, I presume?" he enquired.

"My own name, at your service," Goyemon answered bowing slightly.

The confession they had so confidently expected began to appear a little less certain to the councillors.

"It is impossible to believe, Ishikawa Goyemon," said Sir Ishida, "that a man of your capabilities would have adopted the profession of a robber for its own sake alone. It seems much more likely that you acted in obedience to some mistaken obligations of loyalty or engagement, ignorant, most probably, of your employer's ultimate object, which I now tell you was the murder of His Highness, the Regent."

A stir passed through the audience at this statement, for which the main part were entirely unprepared.

"This being so," continued Sir Ishida, "you have it in your power, not only to atone for your crime, but even to establish a claim to the reward of fealty, by disclosing the name of the traitor that commissioned you, and unless I am very much mistaken, this may be the beginning of a career for the success of which I pledge my name and influence."

"Ha! ha!" laughed Goyemon. "I had heard what a subtle rhetorician you are, Ishida, and I see report does not overestimate your capabilities. That tongue of yours must have been no mean ally in your various plots and schemes, and perhaps—for women, they say, are easily won by words—perhaps it has pleaded your cause successfully with Chika herself. But let me tell you—though I should be sorry that the warning lessened your disappointment hereafter—even if your infamous treachery achieves Hidetsugu's downfall, all your power will not avail to save Chika alive, and when you shall have betrayed your master and murdered your love, I, Ishikawa Goyemon, promise you—for I know—that one lonely night's communion with your own black heart will bring you more agony than all the tortures I am about to suffer here before you."

Truth has often strength to awaken an instinctive perception of its presence under the most unlikely circumstances, and if the verity of these solemnly spoken words required any confirmation, it was afforded by the effect they produced upon Sir Ishida. He seemed to shrink and collapse, as though the support of his life had been suddenly struck away, a ghastly pallor overspread his features, and in the glance he involuntarily directed towards the Regent's seat, it was easy to read consternation, confusion and despair. Whether this accusation sounded false or faithful to his hearers, it was equally ruinous to his hopes, since their consummation would now necessarily condemn him, and from that moment he knew that the curse of his crimes had begun to fall upon him.

After a moment's silence Goyemon resumed, pursuing his advantage with merciless determination:—"No doubt you now regret the imprudence that persuaded you to be my judge, Ishida, and in truth I your prisoner, I who am doomed to suffer I know not what death, can almost pity you when I remember that to escape your evil fate, you dare not halt in the path you have entered, though it leads no longer to Chika's pillow, but her grave. If posterity calls me a thief, it will christen you a catiff, Ishida, and even in my present plight, I would not change places or reputations with you. As a villain you are certainly well fitted to judge villainy, but you are incapable of appreciating a brave man's contempt for the mercenary arguments you employ."

Seeing that his colleague was for the moment unable to prosecute the examination, Nagatsuka now addressed the prisoner:—

"In your present position, Goyemon, your recriminations have no weight, either to move or to asperse. The insolence of a criminal may excite a judge's contempt, but not his anger; neither can it turn him from his duty. You call yourself a thief, forgetting that thieves steal goods or gold, while, had you succeeded in your attempt of last night, you know well that so long as you valued your life you must have kept the censor concealed. You could neither have made use or profit of it. The same argument applies to the brocade tabard found in your possession. It was the property of the Prime Minister, and is at once too remarkable to be safely stolen and too precious to be lightly lent. All this proves plainly that you are no thief, and though we admire the feeling of devotion that induces you to traduce yourself and brave torture and death, we should give you still greater credit, did you abandon and denounce a master that you now know to be disloyal."

Goyemon did not treat his new inquisitor with any greater deference than his former one.

"Have you then proved to yourself, Nagatsuka," he said, "that I am no thief? With your permission, I will now prove to you that you are a fool and incompetent. A fool, because while history tells of such men as Fujiwara, Kuma-

zaka and Tojiniudo,* you still believe that thieves can only be influenced by the desire of gain: incompetent, because, being a judge and councillor, you have failed to discover in Ishikawa Goyemon the prince of all the robbers that have hitherto existed. For your instruction and humiliation, I will describe a few of my exploits. I began my career by stealing two thousand riyos from your own armour-chest. I sent your colleague Ishida with his men-at-arms on a fool's errand to Fushimi, and during his absence, carried off from his castle the proceeds of half a dozen years' savings and extortions. I took the place of the Imperial Delegate, and for a large bribe compounded with the murderers of Nagatsukasa, Earl of Tamaru. I have personified Taiko's commissioner of Examination in fifteen different provinces, and extracted immense sums from the nobles who had avoided the war imposts by false representations. I have visited all the principal temples in Japan, and wherever I found lying priests preying on the superstition and fanaticism of the people, I have carried off their treasures and exposed their impotence. I have done all this and much more, but I have never robbed an honest man nor refused to aid a needy one. And while the whole country was ringing with the rumour of these deeds, and you, wise councillors, judges, sheriffs and so forth, were moving heaven and earth, after your own bungling fashion, to discover their perpetrator, I was living at Kiyoto under your very eyes, possessor of more wealth than I could have spent in a century. Do you still doubt that I am a robber, Nagatsuka? Verily you should have known better, seeing that you are one of the same craft, though of a very different kidney. For though oppressing the poor, selling injustice, deceiving your master and plotting against your rulers may be fashionable knavery, I should despise myself if I practised it as you do. And now once for all, enough of these inexpert questions and hypocritical sermons, which become absurd in the mouths of such as you and Ishida. If you fancy you have more to learn from me, entrust your case at once to your minions and to these instruments that are independent of your incompetence."

It is impossible to describe the effect this statement produced on its hearers. Among the officials present not a few had been Goyemon's victims, while all had been engaged at one period or another in fruitless attempts to unriddle the mystery of the crimes he had now confessed; crimes whose number, variety and apparent ubiquity, as well as the official incompetence their perpetrators' immunity testified, had passed into the title of the time:—"licensee's manhood and law's dotage." Astonishment and rage were painted on every face. Here before them; disdainful and defiant, sat the author of their loss and their disgrace, laughing at their threats and glorying in their discomfiture. Even Sir Ishida forgot the death-blow his prospects had received in his thirst for vengeance, and all the members of the court turned their eyes longingly towards the instruments of torture, by whose aid they hoped now at last to vindicate their insulted dignity.

Goyemon noted this disposition, but betrayed no emotion. Within an arm's length of the place where he was kneeling, sat two men whose dress betrayed the physicians always in attendance at examinations by torture. Beside their medicine chests stood a small brazier supporting a vessel of boiling water. Goyemon stretched out his hand, took the vessel, and turning to the councillors, said:—"In order that you may save yourselves the trouble of employing such useless agents as fire and water, I give you here a proof of their inefficacy."

With these words he slowly and unflinchingly poured the contents of the vessel over his left arm. Many a strong man averted his eyes with a shudder, as the white flesh rose in large flaccid blisters from wrist to elbow.

"Goyemon," said Sir Ishida, "self-inflicted pain is easily borne. We shall see presently whether this is fortitude or bravado. You have now to confess the names of your accomplices, as well as that of him who employed you to steal the censer. Once more will you do so willingly, before the avowal is wrrenched from you by such tortures as no criminal ever before suffered?"

"I should be sorry to deprive your brutality of the spectacle it anticipates, Ishida," replied Goyemon, bowing with mock courtesy.

The etiquette of clemency was now amply satisfied. Ishida made a sign to a party of *shirri* standing at the back of the dais. Six of their number immediately placed themselves,

* Celebrated bandits, supposed to have embraced their profession from motives of ambition.

three on each side of the prisoner, while one, apparently their leader, came and knelt before the judges. Ishida, understanding that he awaited instructions, drew the figure of a crescent with the handle of his iron fan on the matting, whereupon the man bowed and retired. It seemed as though the silence of shocking anticipation had fallen alike on judges, executioners and spectators.

One of the doctors now drew a large pair of forceps from his instrument case, and looked enquiringly at Sir Ishida, but Goyemon, perceiving this, said:—"You may leave me my teeth, Ishida. I promise you not to baulk your projects by biting out my tongue at any rate." The doctor, plainly glad to accept this engagement, replaced his forceps, and the *shirri* proceeded to bind Goyemon's wrists tightly behind him.

This done, an instrument known as the "friction-trees" was produced. It consisted of two pieces of hard-wood, some three feet long, slightly curved, and triangular in section. On one of these, laid with its concave surface upwards—the prisoner was obliged to kneel, while the other was forced between his calves and thighs. The end of the two "trees" having been tied together in this position, it resulted that the man's legs—midway between the knees and ankles—were held in a tightly fitting wooden arc, always presenting a sharp edge to two of the surfaces it touched. Finally, a long iron bar was thrust perpendicularly between the victim's hands and his back, forming a sort of lever, (the fulcrum being at the lower end and the point of application of the force at the upper) by pressing on which he was obliged to remain sitting on his heels.

Goyemon not only offered no resistance to these arrangements, but even facilitated them as far as possible, and so soon as he saw that everything was prepared, he himself ordered the *shirri* to commence.

The men were evidently disconcerted by this extraordinary stoicism, but their duty was a very simple one. Two of them, grasping each an end of the trees, drew them rapidly backwards and forwards, at first with apparent difficulty, but presently aided by a deluge of blood. It seemed as though the man's legs must soon be cut in two, yet the few who could endure to observe him, saw that neither by voice or motion did he give any evidence of suffering.

At every tenth passage of the trees, the *shirri* that held them were relieved, and before each repetition of his torture, Goyemon was asked to confess, but he maintained a dogged silence. The eighth query finding him still determined, the process was abandoned as unsuccessful.

A harrow with wooden pins was now brought forward, and Goyemon was placed on it in a kneeling position. He shuddered slightly as the sharp points pierced his wounded legs, but withal his nerves seemed firmer than those of the men that held him.

Heavy flat stones were then heaped, one by one, on his knees, an exhortation to confess preceding the addition of each weight, but though the pile at last reached so high that only his livid face and blood shot eyes were visible above it, no sound escaped his lips.

This silent suffering was terrible to behold. When the stones had been removed from his knees, half the officers present, including Nagatsuka himself, crowded round Goyemon, and urged, nay entreated him to confess. For a long time he paid no heed to their words, but when at last it was pointed out to him that his judges had no longer any discretion, since the law made the discovery of his accomplices an imperative necessity, he answered that those who had aided him in his enterprises were not his accomplices, but his servants, and that deprived of his leadership, they would be incapable of anything. "The leaves and branches," he added, "wither of themselves when the trunk is dead. I alone have outraged the laws, and in my punishment alone will you, their guardians, have an opportunity of vindicating them. Exact therefore the fullest penalty you may, for I tell you that your vengeance is bounded by my life."

"In heaven's name, Goyemon," urged Nagatsuka, "abandon this fruitless obstinacy. Reflect that we have power to prolong your tortures day after day, and that, held between life and death, the secrets of your heart will surely escape you in the delirium of agony. Can you then be sure that your tongue, no longer obedient to your volition, will not extend your fate to some one, it may be a wife, it may be a child, for whom you would now gladly suffer a hundred deaths? Have you no care for them, no wish for rest yourself?"

For the first time, Goyemon appeared to be in danger of losing his self-command. He trembled violently and looked wildly about him, like one who finds himself suddenly in the presence of some appalling peril. Sir Ishida, observing these symptoms, held up his hand to enjoin silence, and all listened breathlessly for the confession that seemed about to come.

But memory, not fear, had produced this transient weakness. It passed away in a moment, leaving Goyemon firmer than ever. "There are feelings stronger than the sense of pain," he said, "and they will preserve my reason. As for rest, shall I not presently have an eternity of quiet?"

After these words not one, perhaps, of those present entertained a hope of subduing the man's unflinching courage. Many, indeed, would fain have arrested the progress of so fruitless and merciless an ordeal, but there was no longer any choice. The inexorable law acknowledged but one limit, the prisoner's death, and the immense physical energy that had hitherto sustained him, presaged a long term of suffering before that limit was reached.

If however his torturers might not relent, they could at least be speedy. The next stage was so terrible, that it always brought its own relief, insensibility. The prisoner was placed astride on the sharp back of the wooden horse, and in this position heavy weights were attached to each of his ankles. The horse was then drawn backwards and forwards by means of pulleys over the platform of rough logs. Every jolt caused excruciating agony, and by multiplying the number of the stones used as weights, and augmenting the speed of transit, the victim's body might be almost torn in two. It was not, therefore, customary to apply this ordeal in its extreme severity at once, but to proceed by small increments of weight and velocity. In Goyemon's case however, two stones, each a stout man's burden, were suspended on either side, and the horse was drawn at full speed up and down the platform, once, twice and then a third time. Strange and unnatural sounds, half groans, half wails, broke from the miserable man's lips while the motion was continued, but before the completion of the third passage, he fainted.

At no time is man's antipathy to active suffering keener than during the moment of sick faintness that accompanies recovery from the paralysis induced by pain. Memory, unable to recall the exact degree of agony to which nature yielded, has recourse to imagination, and conjures up a phantom from which the shattered nerves shrink with all the more terror because of its vagueness. This fact was well known to the officers charged with Goyemon's examination, and in it rested their last hope of extorting a confession. As soon therefore as the first signs of returning consciousness appeared, the *shirri* proceeded to cauterize his wounds with red hot irons. Thus recalled to life by an anguish even more excruciating than that which had benumbed his senses, and horrified by the shocking nature of his new torment, he struggled for a moment to recover his courage, and then, after a few heart-rending moans, fell into violent convulsions.

There was danger in this condition: the danger that a power stronger than pain might step in and rob the law of its victim. The physicians employed all the resources of their art to prevent such a catastrophe, and after a time they were successful; successful in restoring physical calm, but with such an accompaniment of exhaustion, that further resistance seemed impossible.

Goyemon being again exhorted to confess, replied:—"Confront me with the Regent and I will reveal the name of my master in crime, but to Taiko alone will I do so. If this cannot be, finish what you have begun. I have suffered the worst and will die in silence."

The torture had done its work; the man's spirit was at last broken. His spirit was broken, but of the process, this at least must be recorded, that among all those who witnessed his submission, not one had conceived a higher limit of endurance than that attained by this robber's fortitude.

It would have been unreasonable any longer to doubt that Goyemon had been employed by Hidetsugu. This resolution to confess to Taiko alone could bear no other interpretation. Notwithstanding the important nature of the expected revelation however, it is scarcely probable that Taiko would have consented to such an unusual proceeding, had not his own observation convinced him there was no alternative. As it was, his permission was accorded in opposition to the advice of many of the courtiers, and notably of Mayeda, Duke of Kaga, who contended that an interview with such a malefactor must degrade the Regent

in the eyes of the people. But Taiko was blinded by an angry desire to obtain proof of the Prime Minister's treason. He gave orders that Goyemon should be brought into his presence.

(To be continued in our next.)

EXTRACTS.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S VETO.

(From the *Economist*.)

WE do not know that there is anything in modern constitutional history which is better worth noting than the degree and kind of success which has attended the American Presidency. The framers of the Constitution, influenced partly, no doubt, by the tradition which made a King seem indispensable to a State, partly by the necessity for a strong Executive—always imagined after a long war, when a nation is apt to think of itself as if it were an army—and partly by the reverence felt for the man who was sure to be first President, and who it seemed probably would be President for life, invested the President with the full powers of a Constitutional Monarch, and with the Premiership beside, and he has exercised them unopposed ever since. The elaborate scheme framed by the same men for the election of the President has hopelessly broken down, and that officer is now elected on a plan which is as rough as a mass vote, and yet does not give to the object of its choice the full moral sanction of a *plebiscite*. The President is chosen by the populace, and yet may be chosen, as Lincoln was on his first nomination, and as Mr. Hayes was, by a minority of the electors who recorded their votes. The idea of choosing the ablest or most trusted man to be had has not been found workable, and American Presidents have varied in political rank from Washington to Franklin Pierce—a bad nonentity—and from Madison to Andrew Johnson, a drinking rough of unusual innate capacity. Nevertheless, from first to last, through more than a century of time and an immense variety of circumstance, the Presidency has been a success. The people have always been inclined that the President should perform his legal functions and exercise to the full his legal powers. No King or statesman has ever been more cordially abused, or less respected, or more openly resisted, but there never has been a time when a President, supported by a minority of one-third, plus one, could not veto an Act, or employ the army as he pleased, or dismiss and appoint any member of his Cabinet. After a hundred years, the American President can still treat Cabinet Ministers as clerks, still remove any official he dislikes, and still lock the legislative machine so that it cannot move, without any fear of consequences. General Grant was declared in a thousand newspapers to be a low horse-jockey, a bribe-taker, and a wine-bibber, and, though he was none of these things, he was undoubtedly an inferior politician; yet he remained to the end of his second term the most powerful personage in the Union. Mr. Hayes, the present President, reigns by a very doubtful legal title, and with no moral title at all; yet if he vetoes the Bland Bill, which is supported by nearly two-thirds of Congress, and quite two-thirds of the people, there will be no serious resistance to his action. A great many journalists will comment severely on the "one-man power," and a great many electors will vow audibly not to re-elect him, but of serious anger that he should so defy the people, there will not be a trace. Indeed the feeling will be slightly the other way—a slight additional liking for Mr. Hayes because he has had the courage of his opinions, and has "put his foot down." He will be considered perfectly justified in setting at defiance the formally-expressed and most deliberate will of the majority of the nation.

There is nothing in the least like this fact, that we know of, in the history of modern popular institutions—nothing so entirely unlike the action we should *a priori* expect from a democracy. No people under a Constitutional Monarchy allow their Sovereign this power, and no President of any other Republic has ever been able to claim it safely. In the very latest Constitution of France, a Constitution intended to be Conservative, and to pave the way to a Monarchy, the power of the veto has been carefully omitted, and a clumsy substitute found for it in an exaggeration of the independence of a not very much respected Second Chamber, placed in practice under the control of the Executive. Yet one would not say at first sight that the American people was likely to bear patiently with the authority of a single man. It is a people used to be managed, rather than governed, by committees, very jealous of official authority, very determined not to allow any approach to a monarchical system. Yet it submits to the authority of a single officer, often personally not respected, as quietly and with as little complaint as if he commanded an irresistible army. It is quite certain that the English people, supposed to be so law abiding, would not do so, and why does the American?

We suspect that the true explanation, unlike most political explanations, is a satisfactory one, at least for those who hold it good for society that the Executive should be strong, namely that we none of us quite know how much power the people will delegate when the contest between them and authority is finally over. The American electors do not suspect the President of aspiring to more than legal power. They know almost without reasoning that it is impossible for him to obtain such power; that if he stepped over the law nothing but universal opinion could protect him—that, in short, they themselves are masters past all resistance or discussion. If the President gives reason for suspicion, they can dismiss him at the next election; if he breaks the law, they can enjoin Congress to impeach and dismiss him without waiting even for that short period. European thinkers may speculate on contingencies, but no American ever dreams of circumstances in which a President could force himself upon the people for a second election, or hold power for half an hour in default of one. He would be sent to prison, or sent home like the commonest rough who had irritated the community by an act of indecency or violence. This profound sense of security cures suspicion, and when unsuspicious, a democratic community rather likes to give large powers, and to see the large powers it gives fully exercised. It realises, under such circumstances, its own might, and takes pleasure in it. It looks upon the elected head of the State, who is so painfully visible and so intelligible, and so much more human than any Assembly whatever, as its own special representative, and rather enjoys seeing him snub anybody else, even the representatives, or the people itself. He is there to be a restraining power in the people's name, and he is a restraining power; and as the people can always have their own way at last, he is approved. It must be remembered that he can do nothing. The American president, great as his prerogatives are, cannot levy an extra penny a gallon on whiskey, or add a regiment to the army, or arrest an individual at his own discretion. All he can do is to compel Congress, or as in the case of the Bland Bill, the people, to reconsider its judgment; and the people, which half distrusts its representatives, and is not quite certain about its own judgment till it becomes practically unanimous, likes to see him do that. What is he there for, placed up so high above the poor farmers who elect him, if he is not to have a strong opinion, and to act on it? He can do no harm beyond causing a delay, and about delay democracies never really care. The notion that they are impatient is, we feel assured, almost entirely a delusion, arising from the experience of countries in which democracy is not yet real. The educated classes are impatient because they see the evil caused by uncertainty, but the body of the people who do the same thing day after day, who are not irritated by too many thoughts, and who are never frightened, wait through very lengthy delays with great tranquillity, find indeed in those delays a certain opportunity of making up their minds decisively, which they approve. The duration of the American feeling about the conduct of England in the matter of the Alabama amazed Englishmen, and so did the quiet persistence of the French peasants in the struggle with Marshal MacMahon. In the latter case everybody supposed that the long delays purposely enforced would alter the popular will, that the people would not keep its determination, but it did, and probably—though of course this is beyond proof—grew all the stronger in its resolve for the time which intervened. The people, were not suspicious, are never in a hurry, and are never annoyed at seeing legal power exercised somewhat strongly, and those two facts which preserve the American Presidency are perhaps the two most hopeful facts notable in the modern progress of democracy. We saw one of them very recently in England. When Mr. Gladstone abolished Purchase by an exercise of the prerogative, statesmen murmured that this was not Parliamentary Government, but the body of the people, which has long ceased to be afraid of prerogative took that view so little, that it was found impossible to raise even a serious discussion. It is not of a weak Executive that Liberals, as the popular power advances, need to be afraid, but of an Executive a little too strong to be resisted when resistance is considered advisable by those who do not share the sentiment of the crowd.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE AND THE PARSEES.

(From the *Bombay Gazette*.)

IT would be easy for some good-natured friend of the description emphatically immortalised by Sir Fretful Plagiary to suggest to the present Governor of Bombay that he must be suffering severely from *cacoethes loquendi*, for during the past few months he has been making speeches at an alarming rate, of an alarming length, and with an equally alarming affectation of Oriental learning. It may be questioned whether he does much good by his laborious efforts in public-speaking, so that his medical advisers

might advantageously hint that a little silence would do him good and relieve the minds of those who are watching his career with some anxiety. We are not even sure that some of his speeches have not done harm by their invidiousness, however well meant they may have been. On three recent occasions the Parsees have had three formidable speeches all to themselves, while the other great sections of the native community have not been so honoured—a distinction which very possibly is the cause of a little irritation and jealousy. The position he has assumed towards the Parsee community is very like that of a father. He praises them, glories with them in the pride of their ancestry and blue blood, and then turns round and lectures them upon the state of their morals. The Hindoos and Mahomedans are perhaps disposed to grumble because he does not aspire to be their father, too, for they feel they have as much right to be petted and lectured as their brethren the Parsees. However, we advise them to have a little patience. Their turn will come some day, when Sir Richard will spread abroad his hands and say, "bless you, my children!" in three or four columns. We are certain that his sympathies are too large to find adequate room for expansion upon Parsees alone. Moreover, those sections of the community may find consolation in the reflection that perhaps Sir Richard's addresses to the Parsees have not been very flattering after all, for we think that they contained some bitter truths which were so nicely tied up in big sentences that at first they were not perceived by the persons for whose digestion he had prepared them. It may be the old story of the fox and the grapes over again, but if we were the jealous communities this is certainly the way we should look at the matter. A father is often a very desirable acquaintance to possess, but when he happens to be exceedingly fond of talking, and of saying things you have often read of before about virtue, morality, and industry, he is apt to become just a little tiresome. After Sir Richard's last speech at the Newsaree Tower of Silence—from the name of which he scorned to take a hint by holding his peace—we daresay that even the Parsees are beginning to find out that having a Governor as a parental adviser is not an unmixed blessing. So we would ask the Hindoos and Mahomedans not to fret too much if, up to this time, Sir Richard has not found leisure to make them several long speeches specially prepared for their edification. If he chooses to tell the Parsees that they boast of the bluest blood in the world, they may console themselves by reflecting that at the very least, according to the best present human information, they sprang from Adam. A Norman nobleman once proudly told an Anglo-Saxon that his ancestors had come over with the Conquest. "But I think my ancestors were there to receive them," was the reply. The moral of the story is obvious: if ever a person has existed with blue blood, why, there are people who can point to the Creation, and say that their ancestors must have had "blue blood" also. And, again, if it pleases Sir Richard to dilate on the fabulous deeds of Rustom, or to point a moral with the Persian peacock called the Shah-murg, or even to expatiate on the deeds performed by Zal through the inspiration of that wonderful and eccentric bird, they may cheer their souls with a remembrance of the glorious deeds of a thousand ancestors—their Ghenghis Khans, their Alarics, their Timours, their Babers, their Humayoons, their Shah Jehans, their Aurungzebzes, *et hoc genus omne*. So you see, there is very little after all to fret about. Ancestry is not much less ancient for one person than another. Even a village pariah must have an old genealogical connection, and although the details of the connection may be unknown, still remember that nothing can spring from nothing, and that if the satellites of Mars were not discovered until the other day that was scarcely the fault of the planets. Even a potato must have an origin coeval with the magnificent palm trees that we will take for granted adorned the shady lanes of the Garden of Eden. Why, it is not so very long ago since the full-dress of the ancient Briton was due entirely to an arrangement of a few feathers more or less appropriately distributed over his body, and the application of one or two bright and elementary paints.

Sir Richard Temple has a wonderful love for the "Shah-nama," or Persian book of kings. It would appear that on the slightest provocation he must break out about it. In his remarkable speech at the late Sir Jamssetjee Jeejeebhoy memorial meeting, it was brought in to adorn most of his morals. Its stories about that awful Rustom were used to teach the Parsees that if they cannot now ride, draw the bow, or speak the truth, in the same degree that the ancient Parsees were taught, they may at all events endeavour to perfect themselves in such gymnastic sports as cricket. Again, the mere fact of its ever having been written was employed to prove that Parsees and Mahomedans should ever live together in brotherly love, because it was to the encouragement given by Mahomedans to literature that it owes its existence. In conclusion, after having conveyed to his listeners the obscure

lessons that may be drawn from the Shah-nama, Sir Richard said that there is no class the British Government likes better than the Parsees; that there is no class in whose loyalty it reposes greater confidence than that of the Parsees—all which may be quietly accepted as the compliments due to the occasion, to the speaker's desire that the morals drawn from the Shah-nama might be made acceptable to the community at which they were pointed, and to illustrate his apologue that nowadays the British Government is the Shah-murg to which the Parsees, as the descendants of Zal, must look for protection. His desire to make the Shah-nama a powerful inculcator of morality was shown even more markedly at the Nowsaree Towers of Silence the other day. If his meaning before was veiled, there could be no mistake about it on that occasion. Sir Richard seemed to say.—If my intentions were not inserted into the Parsee community on the point of a delicate rapier, they shall be knocked into them this time with a bludgeon. He practically told the Parsees that not only were they lazy, but that whereas their ancestors were, among other things, taught to use the bow and arrow and speak the truth, in these degenerate days the only bow they draw is the "long-bow"—which is very distressing. In the course of his long speech—delivered more or less directly in reply to one of those memorials expressive of loyalty for which the Parsees are remarkable—he quoted from Draper's "Conflict between Religion and Science" to prove that once upon a time the Persian kingdom was a very large one, and that they had built some very wonderful cities and buildings, and planned several gigantic schemes of irrigation. The Parsees of Nowsaree, if they did not know it before from the commonest rudiments of history, learned now that the pillared halls of Persepolis were filled with miracles of art in the way of carving, sculpture, enamels, obelisks, sphinxes, and colossal bulls; that Ecbatana, another notoriously famous place in Eastern history, was once defended by seven huge walls and contained palaces of which the roofs were (after the true characteristics of sumptuous barbaric art) adorned with gold and silver. An Empire containing such splendours could only have been consolidated with great labour—an obvious fact which the traditions of the inevitable Shah-nama were dragged in to prove. Zal, Rustom, and other Persian heroes were referred to; on this occasion the Shah-murg was permitted to repose in its grave of distempered imagination. Then an extract was read from a book called the "Blue Banner" by M. Leon Cahan, in which an account is given about somebody who was dramatically explaining that he was conspiring on behalf "of the nomads who have broad faces and scanty beards, like we have, against the men with long noses and bushy beards; it is the battle of the desert and the prairie against the cultivated land." We can imagine the feelings of the Zoroastrians who were gathered round their Tower of Silence as they endeavoured to discover what possible relation these quotations could have with the business in hand. Sir Richard, however, endeavoured to enlighten them. His moral, he said, was, that as long as nations are industrious, laborious, enduring and self-sacrificing, so long they are able to maintain themselves; after which he went on to advise Parsees to study and practise the arts of agriculture and soldiery. He regretted that there is not now a single Parsee bearing arms in Western India, and that there are very few Parsees holding the position of cultivators. The Parsees had become essentially men of the towns instead of men of the country. They had even abandoned to a great extent practising the arts of artisans, and had taken greatly to trading and shop-keeping. This they were tempted to do because they supposed they would be able to amass wealth rapidly; and "this habit of mind, this desire for wealth and luxury, tended in a great degree to personal extravagance." Moreover, it appears, as education spreads among the Parsees, there is a tendency among the young men to look to clerical pursuits and "to various professions in which men are expected to work with their brains instead of their hands." Then the Zend-Avesta was quoted to show that, if a nation neglect agriculture, then in the long run they will be without the means of subsistence.

If Sir Richard Temple's extraordinary address signified anything, it signified that the ancient Persians lost their kingdom because they neglected agriculture—a statement of the truth of which there is no proof whatever. They won their kingdom not by the ploughshare, but by the sword, and if they did not keep it it was because other men who were stronger than they were, interfered, and perhaps because the original holders of the sword had laid it past them on the purple couch of luxury and abandoned themselves to the pleasures of wine and dalliance—a weakness of all semi-barbarous conquerors. It was surely with singular fatuity that Sir Richard quoted with approbation that passage from Leon Cahan's book; because while he was endeavouring by a most laborious process—(suggestive of too much "attempting")—to prove the advantages of an agricultural life, he dragged in

and pointed with admiration to some hoary scoundrel who expressly declared that he was going to help to plunder the peaceful cultivators of Iran on behalf of the other scoundrels whom he euphoniously describes as nomads. In another sense, the applicability of Sir Richard's address is extremely doubtful. Even supposing that the ancient Persians did lose their kingdom because of their neglect of agriculture, what had that to do with the Parsee traders and shopkeepers whom he was addressing beneath the Towers of Silence of Nowsaree? He surely does not suppose that the Parsees are the owners of India, and that they will lose it if they do not become ryots! If he meant his moral to apply appropriately, he should have levelled it at the British Government and not at the Parsees, for it must be evident that if every Parsee in India were to take to agriculture to-morrow, and to abandon the trading and shop-keeping for which he has shown an especial aptitude, the event could not prevent India falling away from England one day sooner than would otherwise be the case. Moreover, if Parsees do prefer to make money at shop-keeping, what harm is there in the fact? Men generally take to what vocations suit them best, and if a person succeeds better in trade than he would either in soldiering or in cultivating the result is a gain to the whole community in proportion to the amount of wealth he has succeeded in accumulating. Sir Richard Temple takes to the Civil Service; Dhunjeebhoy keeps a shop; each succeeds; and what right has even the most rabid political economist or philanthropist to say that they would both have been much better off, and the stability of the Empire made firmer, if they had both chosen to be farmers? Sir Richard Temple concluded his address with some pretty broad hints about the character of the Parsees of the present day. David said in his wrath that all men are liars; the Governor of Bombay says in his leisure that the Parsees are not distinguished for their truthfulness. If the statement is true, we are sorry to hear it; but as every Parsee is perfectly well able to take care of his own character whether he has it or not, we do not consider it our particular duty to defend the Parsee community from the general charge of untrustworthiness. We are more concerned to show that in Sir Richard Temple's case occasional silence would be golden, and that the sections of the community who have not yet been specially adopted as his children have no great cause to feel discontented with their lot.

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CONTENTS OF No. 17. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. APRIL 27TH, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

Are our Telegrams Safe? Foreshore Reclamation. Kobe Economists. Proceedings of the Silk Egg Guild.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

On Earthquakes, By Dr. Edmund Naumann: Continuation. The Great Earthquake in Shinshiu in 1847.

EDITORIAL NOTES.—NOTES AND QUERIES.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 17. Torture.

EXTRACTS.

The American President's Veto Sir Richard Temple and the Parsees.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

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Editorial Notes. Notes of the Week. Notes and Queries. The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 16. The Japanese Press.—The production of silkworms' eggs (*two articles*). Failure of International laws.

Sporting Intelligence.—Entries for the Spring Meeting of the Yokohama Jockey Club.

The Harbour &c. (*from the Friend of India*). Mail Steamer Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. Advertisements.

(With this number was given No. III of the Japan Times' Law Reports.)

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	" 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	" 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	" 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	" 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 13
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	" 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	" 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	" 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

•• The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

•• No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

•• Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

•• Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	April 21	Apr. 29		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 1	May 9	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 15	" 30		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 8	July 1	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 22	May 8		M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 1	June 24	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco				P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 4		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	April 19			O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco			

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Apr. 20	Gaelic	Kidley	Brit. str.	2,756	Hongkong	Apr. 13	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 22	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Kobe	" 20	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 23	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	San Francisco	" 1	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 25	Takachiho Maru	Sikemeur	Jap. str.	1,407	Shanghai & ports	" 17	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 25	Volga	Rolland	Frch. str.	1,502	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 26	Kongo	Webb	Jap. corv'tte	1,800	Hull	Feb. 18		
" 26	Cosmao	Dumas Vence	Frch. corv'tte	1,900	Kobe			

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Morse, 2 children and 2 servants, Miss H. Center, Capt. H. H. Ellis, Miss Ellis, Messrs. Geo. Stanton, Don Jose B. Roxas, Don Isidore Fernandez and servant, Dr. Burke and servant; and 4 Chinese and 1 Japanese in steerage. For the United States: Miss L. R. Jerman, Miss Alice Baldwin, Miss Agnes Baldwin, Mr. Teong Hei Lee, Mr. E. McKean and Capt. J. C. Abbott; 558 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* from Kobe:—Messrs. Scott, McKenzie, Goodison, Lieut. Coker, R.A.; and 250 Japanese.

Per Am. str. *City of Peking* from San Francisco:—Mrs. H. S. Davids and child, Surgeon A. Rhoades, U.S.N., Prof. E. S. Morse and family, Miss Alice Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Love, Mrs. H. Latham and 2 children, Revd. Dr. M. T. Yates, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Purdon and family, Messrs. George L. Montgomery, E. R. Smith, G. G. Howland, Jr., F. J. Green, G. Farley, Jr., Frank Reid, Genl. Van Buren, U. S. Consul-General, W. H. Bayley, U.S.N., C. B. Bernard, Charles E. Hill, H. Takamine, S. Sampson, J. S. Fearon, J. K. Cunningham, John Middleton, and Suesabura Kodga in the cabin; and Messrs. William Reid, and David Scott in the steerage. For Hongkong: 86 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Takachiho Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Mourilyan, infant and nurse, Mr. and Mrs. Segemoto, Messrs. Feeney, Otori, Yonekura, Godai and Hatanio in cabin; 1 European, and 361 Japanese in the steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; S. S. "Madras," Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Hase," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM TABLE BAY:—"Fair Leader," Jan. 19.

FROM HONGKONG:—"China," Apr. 23; "Malacca," Apr. 23.

FROM SHANGHAI:—"Hiroshima Maru," Apr. 21.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," S. S. "Madras," "Bon Accord," S. S. "Burmese," S. S. "Egean," S. S. "Imbat."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. April 30th; Hongkong M. M. str. May 8th; America P. M. str. Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. April 29th.

CARGOES:—Per Jap. str. *Takachiho Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$272,797.00 and 3,000.00 yen.

Per Jap. str. *Volga* from Hongkong:—General, 2,551 packages; Sugar, 3,111 bags.

REPORTS:—The O. & O. S. S. *Gaelic* reports:—Left Hongkong at 3 p.m. on the 13th April. Had thick foggy weather to Turnabout thence to the Japan Coast North East winds with rain. Passed Oo-sima at 3 p.m. on the 19th and experienced strong gale from the South East to Rock Island. Moderate Westerly winds up the Bay. Arrived at Yokohama on the 20th at 2 p.m. Passed the *Malacca* at 8 a.m. on the 15th, bound down the sea.

The American steamer *City of Peking* reports: Left San Francisco April 1st, 1878, at 12 m., with 2 bags U. S. Mails, 39 passengers cabin, 3 Europeans and 86 Chinese steerage, \$217,518.00 in Treasure, and 1,835.30/40 tons Freight. We bring for this Port 39 passengers cabin, and 3 steerage, 11 bags Mail, and 136-4/40 tons cargo. Weather from San Francisco to Meridian of 180 moderate winds with smooth sea; thence to Port, continued heavy westerly gales.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Apr. 21	Boyan	Boyle	Russ. corvt.	2,000	Kobe	Apr. 23		
" 21	Haydamak	Tirtoff	Russ. corvt.	1,100	Kobe	" 23		
" 21	Vsadnick	Novosilsky	Russ. corvt.	1,069	Kobe	" 23		
" 21	Gaelic	Kidley	Brit. str.	2,756	San Francisco	" 23	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 21	Audacious	Durrant	Brit. frig'te	3,774	Cruise			
" 21	Maggie	Lang	Brit. G.-boat	665	Cruise			
" 22	Winlow	Barker	Brit. barq.	450	Hakodate		General	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 22	Tauruga Maru	Moore	Jap. str.	880	Kobe	" 24	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 24	Oxfordshire	Jones	Brit. str.	1,228	Kobe	" 26	General	Smith Baker & Co.
" 24	Orissa	Briscoe	Brit. str.	1,119	Hongkong	May. 1	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 24	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai & ports	" 2	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 25	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	Hongkong		Mails and general	P. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Am. str. *Gaelic* for San Francisco:—Miss Jermon, Miss A. Baldwin, Miss C. Baldwin, Captain Abbott, E. McKean, Messrs. Mudie, Leyland, Tong Hin Loong, Mr. and Mrs. D. McDonald, Messrs. Bonninger, J. Favre-Brandt, Michaelson, J. Peterson, and Myer; and 2 Europeans in steerage. For Liverpool: Mr. Atchison. For London: Mr. Ernest de Bavier.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Miss Sakakura, Miss Matsuo, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Love, Mr. and Mrs. Miyamura and child, Mr. and Mrs. Purdon and family, Miss B. Mills, Messrs. Kuroda, Stewart, J. L. Anderson, Ban, Hirayama, Akimoto, Yashima, Adachi, Kakeki, Fearon, Maxwell, Santo, Matsumoto, Arikawa, J. G. Walsh, Bayley, Kasuga, E. Gilbert, Samson, Toomanoff, Goodison, W. D. Yates, E. E. Hill, Nagai, Hara, Hanita, Shimidzu, Green, Cunningham, Benson, Arai, Kagitome, A. Abaza, H. McKenzie, and Cuthbertson.

Per Brit. str. *Orissa* for Hongkong:—3 Chinese on deck.

LOADING:—*Tanvis*, for Hongkong and Europe, May 1st.—M. M. Co.
Nagoya Maru, for Shanghai and ports, May 1st.—M. B. M. Co.
Johann Wickhorst, for London, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffier & Co.
Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.
China, for San Francisco, May 4th.—P. M. Co.
Sumida Maru, for Hakodate, April 27th.—M. B. M. Co.
Christine, for Hakodate, Quick despatch.—P. Bohm.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. May 8th: for Hongkong M. M. str. May 1st: for America P. M. str. May 4th: for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. May 1st: for Hakodate M. B. M. str. April 27th

CARGOES:—Per Brit. str. *Orissa* for Hongkong:—Silk for London, 69 bales.
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$161,187.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Gaelic	Kidley	British steamer	2,756	Hongkong	April 20	O. & O. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Mar. 28	Lighthouse Department	
Nagoya Maru	Conner	Japanese steamer	1,914	Kobe	April 22	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,146	Sha'hai & ports	April 11	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,407	Sha'hai & ports	April 25	M. B. M. Co.	
Tanais	De la Marcelle	French steamer	1,746	Hongkong	April 12	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	April 25	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,300	Hiogo	Mar. 30	M. B. M. Co.	
SAILING SHIP.							
Coldinghame	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Glengaber	Gray	British barque	658	Antwerp		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Henry A. Litchfield	Drummond	American barque	638	Newcastle N.S.W.	April 2	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johan Irgens	Mortensen	N'rwegian barque	775	Newcastle N.S.W.	April 15	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	Hamb'g & K'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffier & Co.	London.
John Potts	McPherson	British barque	373	Takao	April 7	Jardine Matheson & Co.	
Laira	Trevina	British barque	498	London	April 18	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newcastle N.S.W.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Mount Washington	Perkins	American ship	1,217	Batavia	Mar. 30	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboyna	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Oceanic	Affleck	British barque	320	Takao	April 18	Netherlands Trading Co.	
Omba	Hall	British ship	836	Shanghai	April 2	Cornes & Co.	For fr'ght. orch'ter.
Sumner R. Mead	Dixon	American ship	1,117	New York	April 5	C. & J. Trading Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Juno	8 ...	2,216 ...	Corvette	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel	4 ...	462 ...	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
GERMAN—Augusta	12 ...	1,900 ...	Corvette	Captain Hessempflug.
FRENCH—Cosmao	12 ...	1,900 ...	Corvette	Captain Dumas Vence.
JAPANESE—Kongo	9 ...	1,800 ...	Corvette	Captain Webb, R. N.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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RESERVE FUND \$1,000,000.

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On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

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A. M. TOWNSEND,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

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They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Malala.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

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The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

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The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1 1/2	Per Cent.
" " " " " " " "	6 " " " " " " "	1 " "	" "
" " " " " " " "	3 " " " " " " "	1 " "	" "
" " " " " " " "	1 " " " " " " "	1 " "	" "
" " " " " " " "	10 days " " " " " "	3-16 " "	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2 1/2	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " " " "	3 " "	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1 1/2	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " " " "	2 " "	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

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At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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BATAVIA, JAVA.

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J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

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Ordinary drawings every month | Extraordinary drawings two
June and December excepted. | drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " 4,000	1 " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " 500 "	15 " " 1,000 "
20 " " 100 "	20 " " 500 "
450 " " 30 "	400 " " 100 "
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Ticket \$6.00	2 " " 250 "
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HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

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No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
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BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING SALOON.

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THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 18.]

May 4, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

TREATY REVISION—THE JAPANESE YEN. II.

IN THE two articles which we devoted, last month, to the subject of silver currency in Japan, we condemned the Mexican Dollar to be relegated to its proper position here as bullion, and exhorted the Japanese Government to return, in its own coinage system, to silver as a standard, and to the silver *yen* proper—the coin originally designed by Major Kinder, of the same weight and fineness as the Mexican Dollar—as the sole legal tender for payments in coin. We reserved the claims of the Government's paper currency, by recommending them to make this a legal tender for all internal taxes and excise, but advised them to strengthen its position, and check its fluctuations in relative value, by announcing their intention to make their paper redeemable in silver on demand, at the earliest possible date. It remains for us to state what guarantees foreign governments, bankers, and merchants will require, to induce them to lend their aid in the struggle between the dollar and the *yen*, and to show what consequential advantages Japan may hope to gain, when that struggle has resulted—as it should do—in a victory for her own coin. We are informed that the Government is convinced of its error in attempting the establishment of a gold standard, and wishes to return to silver, but will propose to coin a *yen* of 420 grains. If it persevere in this, an additional proof will be given of the origin of the people. Another of the Ten Lost Tribes may lay claim to their parentage. We have already alluded to their relationship to Reuben—as instanced by that fluidity of character which precludes excellence;—should they persist in the attempt to put a 'trade dollar' into competition with the Mexican, they will go far to prove their direct descent from Issachar, the 'strong ass, crouching between two burdens.' The burdens are heavy—California and China.

It is not difficult to see how the Finance Minister has been misled into this error. Even assuming that he has had no interested friends of the American trade dollar at his elbow,—a large and charitable assumption;—he has had Japanese friends, returned from educating themselves in America, and saturated with all the faulty American theories on trade and finance. But Japanese statesmen must learn that Japan is by no means as big as America, and that any attempt to walk in her neighbour's shoes will only result in ignominious tumbles. The American Trade Dollar has its uses—to Americans. American silver-producers can afford to send out their bullion in this form, instead of in that of bar-silver. Their only object is to get rid of metal which their mines are producing, in excess of the world's demand for it in the uncoined state, and it pays them to cast it in little ingots, weighing 420 grains each, which will not buy silk or tea from China; but which can be sold for Mexican dollars weighing 417.60 grains each, which will. For to dig out and smelt their silver ore, and then to coin and transport these ingots which

they call 'trade dollars' are processes which cost them, in wages, &c. so little, as a percentage on the total out-put of their mines, that they can very well afford to give away two or three grains of silver, when selling their stamped ingots for the current Mexican coin. But Japan has no such teeming silver mines, and it is a very unprofitable business for her to sell her silk, or tea, or rice, or gold, for silver bars; to pay the cost of coining these into little ingots of 420 grains each, which she may choose to call 'trade dollars'; and then to sell these for the almighty Mexican,—and moreover to sell them at a discount. No coin bearing a nominal value was ever yet pushed out of circulation, or ever will be, by a similar coin of the same nomenclature, but of higher intrinsic worth. It never gets a chance. The intrinsically inferior coin buys it up and hands it over to the melting-pot, just as fast as it can be coined. Let the Japanese Government take this as a truth,—an axiom. We cannot waste time in furnishing demonstrations of axioms, and shall therefore let the simple statement stand. And it is with the Mexican dollar, not with the American silver-seller's ingot, that the Japanese *yen* has to contend. By all means let Japan buy the American 'trade dollars' with her *yen*—instead of buying bar-silver—if she can buy them on the same terms as the Mexican dollar does—at par or at a discount;—her coinage from these will be more profitable than coining from bar silver;—but in her contest with Mexico for the supply of coin for the China trade she must fight with exactly even weapons. So only has she a chance of success, for—paradox though it seem—it is a certain, absolute, fact—that in such a contest the better coin has the worse chance.

The question has now to be considered: what guarantees must Japan give to foreign governments, bankers and traders, that the coin with which she hopes to supplant the long-established Mexican dollar will justify their support? We may take it for granted that the Japanese government realizes the fact that, without such support, that object will not be achieved. And we trust that it also understands that we are not likely to disturb existing monetary arrangements, and so radically change the course of trade as to make Japan, instead of Mexico, the Mint for our China trade, without guarantees full, satisfactory, and permanent for a reasonable period, that we shall not hereafter be inconvenienced by the necessity of making yet another change. This Review gives, as every foreign journal ought to give, an independent support to the government of the country, and strives to aid the people in the development of the country's resources; for the stability of the former, and the welfare of the latter are both needful for the success of foreign trade: but we are not blind to the faults and shortcomings of either people or government, and have no object in flattering one or the other by pretending to be so. Neither have yet sufficiently de-orientalized themselves to have become trustworthy; and

until a generation of Japan's statesmen have learnt that successful deception is not diplomacy, and a generation of Japan's merchants that Credit is the life of Commerce,—so long must foreign Powers and foreign bankers ask for bargain-money from her traders and guarantees from her government. In such an important matter as this,—of committing to its charge the coinage of the medium of exchange for a large and rapidly growing trade, in which far larger interests than her own are concerned, the errors of the past, the circumstances of the present, and the temptations of the future have all to be duly weighed: the currency frauds of 1866—1870 cannot be forgotten, the pressing necessities of to-day must be regarded, and in forecasting possibilities, we must guard against official corruption and inherent popular vice. There appears to us but one satisfactory way of fulfilling all these conditions, but one sufficient guarantee—the Japanese Mint must submit to responsible foreign direction.

That such control can be exercised without impairment of national dignity and to the great enhancement of national credit and consequent commercial progress—with, as a corollary, large benefit to the governmental treasury, has lately been conclusively proved in more than one instance. England and France insisted on a Foreign Inspectorate of the Chinese Customs, to secure the payment of the indemnity after the last Chinese war. The indemnity was soon paid, but the Chinese Government found it greatly to its interest to perpetuate the system, and not only has trade flourished under it, but the Customs afford now a valuable security, upon which loans can be raised on easy terms, and their proceeds, in the present desperate state of internal revenue, furnish the tottering dynasty with its chief, almost its only pecuniary support. The example of Egypt will also at once suggest itself, and to revert to Japan, we have only to turn back a few pages of the history of the Osaka Mint, to find full assurance of the correctness of our view. The Mint was opened in the spring of 1871, and its productions, sent for inspection to America and England favourably reported on. Slight corrections of details, which experience had shown to be necessary were then made, and the report from the Royal Mint of England on the second edition of the coin being still more favourable,—the results of assay being characterised by the Mint-Master as 'eminently satisfactory,'—the first attack was made upon the Mexican Dollar. In the Oriental Bank Corporation, then acting as the Agents of the Imperial Government for supply of bullion, machinery, and other material for the Mint, the Government had a most powerful ally. It became generally known that the Director of the Mint and his foreign staff received their appointments from, and were held responsible to, the Bank; and thus the guarantee of the Corporation was given to the mercantile communities of China and Japan, that the coin issued by the Japanese Government was, actually, what it was nominally. In 1874, at Singapore, Canton and Foo-chow, the Japanese *yen* was made a legal tender, concurrently with the Mexican Dollar, and though the Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong was not then satisfied as to the stability of the Japanese Government, and hesitated, in consequence, to encourage its introduction into the Colony, there can be no doubt whatever that,—had this Government persevered for a very short time longer, retaining the services of the Oriental Bank as Agents, and vesting in their hands the appointment of a foreign Mint Master—the *yen* would have now been firmly established in China, and the Mexican Dollar would have been fast going out of use. For the whole foreign trade of China suffers a tax, which we do not think we overstate in putting at one-and-a-half per cent, paid to Chinese shroffs for their manipulation of the medium of exchange. With a new coin, stable in standard and weight, the product of a single Mint, under irreproachable foreign direction, and guaran-

teed by a responsible foreign Bank; the tyranny of the servant might have been resisted by the master. The coinage of Mexico necessarily varies; being the product of a number of mints, all working on the bullion from different mines, with machinery of varying excellence, independent of each other, and without any such advantages as those enjoyed by the Osaka establishment,—a foreign directorate, and a foreign guarantee. The competition between the several Mexican mints naturally keeps the coin up to standard, but the slight differences between their products gives an almost legitimate excuse to the Chinese shroff to put upon them a discriminating value, and foreign merchants in China would gladly seize the opportunity of abolishing this, in favour of a standard coin turned out from one guaranteed source. That this feeling has been lately gaining strength is evidenced by the repeated petitions from the foreign merchants in China to the Colonial and Home Governments for a British coined dollar, and by their frank acknowledgment of their error in declining to bear, long enough for the experiment, the cost of the British Mint that was established for a short period in Hongkong. Quite a serious agitation is now, we see, on foot, for its re-establishment, and should the Japanese Government fail to interfere, immediately, with an offer to coin for the China trade—there seems little doubt that this agitation will be successful; a British Mint will be established in Hongkong, and Japan's opportunity will be lost for ever.

Into the details of the arrangements necessary we need not enter very fully. Foreign countries have to pay China for the excess of her exports which they consume, over their imports which she will receive; and that balance must be paid in silver. At present it is paid mainly in Mexican silver, in the form of the Mexican dollar, which has to carry the additional expenses of a very heavy excise duty—which the Mexican Government imposes on the mints—and of the charges of carrying it from Mexico to her customers—say, for example, in London—and from London to China. It does not require elaborate argument or tabular statements to prove that it would be cheaper for Europe to buy bar-silver from the mines of California or Nevada, and pass it on, through the Japanese Mint, to its destination in China. The China trade would get cheaper money and the exchanges would immediately find their levels. What the Japanese Government has to concern itself with is the means to be used to secure the co-operation of the foreign Banks and merchants in China, or to justify the Governor of Hongkong and the English Colonial office in replying to the demand of Hongkong merchants for a Mint of their own, by telling them to avail themselves of that already established in Japan. And we can see but one way to achieve this, that which we have stated,—restoring the foreign directorate. The foreign Director need not positively be an Englishman, but the Japanese Government could not possibly do better, and might easily do worse, than ask the British Government to send out an officer from the Royal Mint, or a man of equal standing and repute. It may be argued by Japanese statesmen, or argued for them by foreign writers who stoop to beslave them with the flattery of venal pens, that the experience of the last three years has shown that the Mint can be worked efficiently, and the standard of the coin kept up, without a foreign Director, and under a native Imperial Commissioner, assisted only by the few able foreign superintendents of Departments still employed. We admit the fact, but deny the inference. The question is not what has been done, but what do foreign Governments—the Colonial Government of Hongkong for example—and what do foreign merchants, require? They may be obstinate, and unjust, and in every way wrong. They ought, we may grant, to be content with the periodical 'trials of the pyx,' and with the assay-reports

from American and English Mints; with the independent assays procured by the foreign banks on the parcels of coin they occasionally export; and with the belief that self-interest will ensure in Japan, as it has pretty well in Mexico, permanency of standard and continuity of supply. But suppose all this will not content them? And as a matter of fact we know that it will not. Are Japanese statesmen to be so foolish, as to throw away a manifest and great advantage, for the satisfaction of a petty punctilio of national pride? The time will come, they may confidently hope—after some years of experience of their honesty and appreciation of its being the best policy, when such guarantees as foreigners demand may be dispensed with; but securities must be given now, if Japan is to gain her end. And of these, perhaps the most important is that the arrangements made at first will be permanent for some fixed period of reasonable duration. We must be assured against any such capricious changes as caused the failure of Japan's first experiment in this direction; for one of the consequences of success will be to deprive us of a medium of exchange only inferior in degree to that which we wish to see established; and we have a right to demand that we shall not be made the victims of the national vices of instability of purpose and love of change, by any more excursions in the direction of bi-metallism or coinage of dollars of eccentric weight. Against this danger we must be protected by the foreign staff being engaged for at least ten years.

The question remains for discussion whether any special inducement need be held out to foreign Banks, to secure their good will and support to the change we propose—the substitution of the Japanese *yen* for the Mexican and every other dollar, and its establishment as the sole medium of exchange in the trade of the Far East. After giving very careful consideration to the matter, we have come to the conclusion that their support will be given without it. When the *yen* made its first appearance in China, under the protecting shield of the Oriental Bank's guarantee, that help was invaluable to it and at once secured it a good foothold. But should this Government now seek to gain other than disinterested assistance from this powerful Corporation, by—for instance—offering to make it its sole agent for the importation of bullion and mint *material*, and by vesting in it the appointment of the foreign Director and his staff;—there is grave reason to fear that the Bank's rivals might be incited to opposition to the *yen*. For such an agreement, with the early and exclusive information respecting the Mint's proceedings which would accrue to it, would go far towards giving the Oriental Bank the control of the China exchanges; and greatly as we respect this venerable Corporation, we are by no means prepared to to advocate processes tending to that end. A syndicate of the foreign Banks, guaranteeing the coin and responsible for the foreign staff, will doubtless suggest itself to some minds as completely meeting the case; but we cannot find reasons to justify us in hoping that such a combination is practicable. And if—as we suggest—the British Government will undertake to appoint a Director, we think that his verifications of the local assays, and the half-yearly reports from English and American Mint-masters, ought to, and will, satisfy the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce. The Japanese Finance Minister should therefore open negotiations with Sir Harry Parkes and Mr. Pope Hennessey, and gain their good offices with the Home Government with the least possible delay. Nor should he fail to secure, also, the valuable co-operation of the Chinese Minister. It is true that already is the Japanese dollar a legal tender at Canton and Foochow; but its position would be greatly strengthened, were its *status* to be proclaimed by the Chinese Government as equal to that of its Mexican rival, at all the ports of China open to foreign trade, concurrently with the announcement of its acceptance by the English mercantile community of Hongkong.

The extreme length to which has extended this division of our subject compels us to defer, to some future occasion, consideration of minor points of only less importance:—such as the guarantees for assurance that sufficient coin shall always be forthcoming for both the Japan and China trades, perhaps the most difficult part of the task before the Japanese Government; the amount of seigniorage to be charged on coining for the public; the subsidiary coinage, its profits and its standard; the currency of Mint warrants, or certificates;—and, generally, the direct and collateral benefits to Japan consequent on the expulsion of the Mexican dollar. But we have raised the standard of the crusade against it, and shall await some evidence of our having gained a following, before we proceed to undertake labour, whose weight is manifest, but whose reward is uncertain.

FORE-SHORE RECLAMATION. II.

IN continuation of our article of last week upon this subject, we have to remind the reader that we described to him the construction of the vegetable mattress called a 'zinkstuk' by Dutch engineers, and showed how it was built up of 'fascines' and 'wieps,' strengthened and moored by stakes and piles. This apparatus we have now to apply, and must recall to our readers' memory the diagram of a flat-fish's skeleton, which we took as a popular figure of our plan, the backbone representing the course of the stream, and our intended projection of that course, along which we propose to establish artificial banks.

This the 'zinkstuks,' loaded with stone ballast, and submerged below low water mark, at once commence to do for us and, as we have said, judgment has to be displayed in selecting the positions in which they are sunk: the objects which we have in view being duly regarded—the shaping of the channel, by means of these submerged guiding banks, in such a way as to give us the *maximum* of scour, and as a consequence, the *minimum* of bar at the new mouth of the river. It will be at once evident that—referring to our diagram,—the proper place for these engines of obstruction is on either side of the backbone, between the side-bones or ribs. At the junctions of these with the *vertebrae*, are placed 'groynes,' the parts actually abutting on the channel being technically called the 'aprons' thereof. These are formed of combinations of piles or stakes, supporting fascines interwoven with 'wieps,' duly filled and weighted, as described in the construction of the 'zinkstuk.' They are built up to the level of an ordinary spring tide. As the 'groynes' recede from the 'aprons,' they trend away along the lines of the side-bones of the skeleton, diminishing as they go, until they dwindle to mere staked-down 'wieps,' and finally end in a ramification of silt-catching brush, which only needs to be planted on the higher portions of the sand or mud banks, which invariably dry at low water. Thus is formed one of the ribs of our imaginary skeleton, and the whole diagram having been filled up in the same way, we commence to watch its action upon the tides and currents. This we will proceed to describe.

Let us first pursue one single tide from flood to ebb. As the young flood sets in, the waters of the river are banked up in their shallow channel, and forced over the adjoining mud banks. But here they meet the obstructions we have laid down, our groynes along the ribs of the fish's skeleton. These guide and break them up, till their lateral motion is so dispersed that it practically ceases, and as a consequence, whatever the waters held in suspension is deposited upon the flats. Meanwhile, the flood continues to bore its way up the channel, giving off always some portion of its volume as we have described, until the point is reached where it ceases to overcome the resistance of the down-pouring stream; when ebb begins. But the

ebb has meanwhile already set in on the foreshore, and at the outfall of the river, and as the receding tide-wave hurries back from the channel's mouth, the hitherto convex surface of the flood becomes concave, and, drawing laterally, it sucks a portion of the now comparatively limpid water from the adjoining mud banks, which are thus left by each recurring tide increased all round, and with surfaces slightly higher. Meanwhile the stream, reinforced by these side-waters, passes between the 'zinkstuks' which guard the bases of the banks from its erosion, scours the bottom of the channel and finally the bar, removing the deposit of the previous flood tide and carrying it into the deeper water beyond.

At first sight it would seem that, when the flood came back, it would efface the result of the ebb, by again depositing silt. But it must be considered that the ebb flows faster and with greater volume than the flood. In the first place, the flood is moving up against the descending stream, and its force is therefore *x minus* the force of the river; secondly, as we have shown, the water being banked up in the channel with a convex surface, runs over laterally and the force of the flood is thus constantly dissipated. The ebb, on the contrary, runs in the same direction as the stream, and its force may be figured as *x plus* the force of the river. In addition to this, as we have shown, the concave ebb tide, sucking back to assist it the water from the flats, acquires so much greater force than the flood had possessed, that it not only removes the silt which the latter had deposited, but, in the channel formed by the sunken 'zinkstuks' cuts out and deepens the river's bed. And now, at last, we are able to give the final proof of the correctness of our view, that the upper and middle sections of rivers must take precedence of the lower in any attempt to improve or 'rebuild' them; for it is evident that, if the stream is allowed to bring down with it a quantity of lithic matter which, added to the silt brought in by the flood-tide, together more than equals that scoured out by the ebb, we shall have been 'pottering about the mouth' to no purpose, and the bar will increase instead of diminish. Whereas, if the upper portions of the stream have been properly cared for, the flow of the river guided and regulated, and the banks properly protected from erosion, the ebb will be composed of comparatively limpid water only, and the bar will be gradually dredged away, or rather pushed forward into deeper water, where it will cease to be an impediment to navigation; while gradually, on either side of the improved and prolonged river channel, the forces of the tide and the river together will themselves reclaim, or rather create, the fore-shore.

This appears a very simple matter, but simplicity is the main characteristic of every valuable idea; and we are surely justified in our statement, made in a former part of this essay, that the value of the land thus reclaimed would far more than balance the cost of reclamation. But we must not forget the other object we have in view, the formation of a port. For "time is money" and if the factor, "wind and weather permitting," could be expunged from the calculations of merchants and ship-owners, how much time would be saved, how much money made, in the transaction of the shipping business which now has to be done in the exposed, unsafe, and inconvenient roadstead of Shinagawa.

Leaving therefore, time and tide to do their work upon the framework of artificial obstructions we have prepared; to clothe our skeleton of 'zinkstuks' and 'fascines'; we proceed to prepare the plan of the future harbour. Sweeping round, from the right bank of the river at Tsukidji, and following high water mark, we find ourselves,—speaking roughly—tracing an arc the outer horn of which rests on Shinagawa. What we have now to do is to prolong this arc, slightly contracting its radius, so that its terminal point may strike the line of our prolonged river channel on

the extreme edge of the banks to seaward. The river channel would then form the chord of this bow.

To do this, an embankment and sea-wall would be necessary, extending from the Shinagawa shore in the direction required. So far as this extends over the shallows, it would be utilized, both as causeway and breakwater; but after leaving the shoal waters, it would become the defence of the harbour which we propose to construct behind it. And this, doubtless, would be an important and somewhat expensive work. But by good fortune, in the obsolete and useless forts we have much of the material necessary, and in the small piece of work just finished on the eastern side of the mouth of the creek at the end of the Bund of Yokohama we have a proof that the work can be efficiently done by native labour, skilfully directed, and without the aid of much expensive imported material, such as Portland cement;—for the engineer who has constructed this wall has succeeded in combining Japanese material into a satisfactory substitute. And—a most important point—this work also furnishes a perfect gauge of cost. The forts would furnish the facing stone, their *debris* fillings, and, supplementing this material with concrete, or *beton*, blocks—made, as in Captain Bridgford's wall, of native material, the expense of this breakwater ought not greatly to diminish the balance which would accrue to the Government, after restoring the river and opening its mouth, from the sale of the reclaimed land.

Within this wall, of course, it is probable that some excavation might be necessary, and the work ought to be carried out simultaneously with the reclamation of the whole fore-shore; but this is a matter of detail the execution of which requires proper survey of the locality. Our object is merely to outline and suggest what may be done, not to tender for the contract. We therefore pretermit description of the wharves projecting from the inner side of the wall, alongside which ships would lie, discharging or loading into or from wagons or lighters, as best suited the shipper or the consignee; of the docks, dry and wet, for repairing vessels; of all the other adjuncts of a great port. It appears to us that an opportunity offers here, of getting great advantage for small outlay, and if our thus directing attention to the matter has as good a practical effect as was produced by the first articles of this series—respecting the treatment of the forests of Japan,—we shall think ourselves amply repaid for our trouble in collecting the facts we have assembled, and putting them before the public in—we hope—an intelligible form.

THE following important Notification, issued on the 30th ultimo, reaches us too late for us to do more than give it publication and cursory notice:—

NOTIFICATION No. 7.

Notice is hereby given that a decree has been issued for the raising of a loan of Twelve millions-and-a-half of *yen* by subscriptions of the people, to pay for public works and subsidies to national industries within the Empire, thereby increasing native and foreign trade. The Minister of Finance has been ordered to execute this decree, and will publish further information shortly.

Tokio, 30th day 4th month, 10th year of Meiji,—(April 30th 1878.)

(Signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijo Daijin.

We await with curiosity the 'further information,' until receipt of which comment is almost idle. The step is a bold one: that the Government could have raised another foreign loan without much difficulty, we have little doubt; if the proceeds were to be devoted to such useful public works as construction of roads, restoration of rivers, afforestation, and improvements to harbours,—and if the money was to be spent under honest and intelligent foreign con-

trol—we should have no doubt at all, and could have assured cheap money. But an internal loan is a different matter. It is a test of the feelings of the people towards their rulers; and confidence in the existing Cabinet, loyalty to the present occupant of the throne cannot better be shown than by an immediate and overflowing subscription. We very cordially wish that success may justify the Government's courageous appeal to the people.

WE beg to call special attention to a passage in the article which we quote from *The Times*, on the case of *De Bussche v. Alt*, which should not be allowed to pass into record against this trade, without protest and denial. Agreeing most fully with the view taken by the great London newspaper of Mr. Alt's behaviour as an agent, we must give emphatic contradiction to the imputation conveyed in the following sentences:—

"Mr. Alt set up a custom of European merchants in Japanese ports, by which they claim freedom to throw off the character of agents whenever they think it profitable to themselves. They are acting for the owner of property when it will fetch no more than the minimum price; they are acting for themselves when they can get something beyond that price. Lord Justice THESIGER even had to admit that evidence of the existence of such a custom had been produced. Yet it is obvious that its direct effect must be to sap the very foundation of the good faith on which the relation of principal and agent rests. A principal's chance of profiting by the ability and activity of this agent is but slender when the agent, if he finds that by ability and activity he may make a better bargain, is free to buy at the lowest and sell at the highest. There is the comfort that a practice so immoral is 'scotched' the moment it comes within reach of an English Court of Justice."

But our contradiction is merely made for our own satisfaction, and is little likely to reach *The Times*. It appears to us a clear duty of the Chamber of Commerce to take up the matter officially, and give the statement official denial.

THE important news that the negotiations for the simultaneous withdrawal of the English and Russian forces have failed was circulated last night by Reuter's Agency, and we cannot but agree with the Russian press in considering war between England and Russia inevitable. But that Russia can prolong hostilities without national bankruptcy, and that England is quite unready for war are both important factors in any calculation on the subject. They have hitherto prevented the collision, and may continue to do so for some time longer; but our countrymen at home appear to be on the verge of one of those bursts of passion which have more than once forced unwilling leaders to obey the national will, in defiance of prudential considerations and irrespective of all feeling but one—to avert a stain upon the nation's honour.

[ERRATUM. In our last appears a misprint which will of course have been recognized as such by our readers interested in silk, but which we may as well correct. On page 141, first column, near the foot, 130,000 is stated as the number of silk egg cards to be made this year. It should manifestly have been printed 1,300,000.]

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE UJI*; BY G. A. GREEVEN.

IN consequence of repeated annual observations, I am now in a position to confirm and enlarge the few remarks of mine on the 'Uji' which are published in the seventh number of these Transactions. I shall explain the whole life of the insect here, so that a knowledge of my first ac-

* By the term "Uji" the Japanese understand many kinds of Larvæ and Worms, especially when they live in putrefying matter or derive their sustenance therefrom. I use the simple word "Uji" specially for these small parasites which feed themselves chiefly on the bodies of the silk worm, because these are the most important, and are almost the only ones known under this name to the Europeans settled here.

count will be superfluous, and I shall therefore commence with the complete and perfect fly itself.

It measures between thirteen and fifteen m/m in length; the head of the male is of a bright yellow colour, that of the female still brighter; the back is grayish black, the legs and feelers black; the hinder parts of the body are of a transparent brown colour with black stripes in the male, and of a grayish colour in the female.

It appears in the largest numbers in the end of April and beginning of May, and this holds true for Yedo and the neighbourhood as well for the province of Joshu. The first comers are mostly males, the females coming somewhat later. On the other hand, the number of the males is less than that of the females in the end of May, and in the beginning of June even these latter become rare. In the beginning of May, and especially in the forenoons, one sees these flies, in pairs as a general rule, on isolated, projecting old mulberry trees and in great numbers on the edge of running water; they fly to and from the ground, seeking for their food between fallen leaves, dung &c. In the middle of the month and still later they are most numerous in the larger mulberry plantations, and almost always on the sunny side of the fresh sappy leaves. As already mentioned they are at this time almost wholly females, who fly briskly from leaf to leaf, disappearing now and again under a leaf, and depositing, or rather stripping off, an egg on the back. The consequence of this stripping off is that the eggs are chiefly to be found on the ribs of the leaves, or frequently half under them, and hidden in the filaments. The fly lays only one egg each time, and then betakes itself to another leaf.

The egg is covered with a moist glutinous substance, and as this dries rapidly, the egg is fixed pretty firmly, and cannot be removed without some difficulty.

Unfortunately for the silk growers, the egg is very small, and escapes all but the most careful attention. Its average length is about 1/5 m/m, and its thickness but 1/9 m/m, so that it looks to inexperienced eyes like a small black spot which might be mistaken for many other black spots. Under the microscope it is of a dark brown colour, feebly bright, and oval.

The external covering consists of pentagonal cells, which gives the egg the appearance of being covered with a net. It is soft and tough rather than hard and brittle. Moreover the young fly which forms the substance of the egg is covered with a double skin which looks colourless, and is extremely tender and transparent, and which by a slight but regular friction comes out of the egg with the Uji through a fissure.

Whether the fresh laid eggs contain living Ujis, or whether a certain time is necessary for their full development, is a question yet to be decided, and with it the period which is most dangerous for the silk-grower will be fixed more accurately. On the other hand, I have found fresh and living flies in eggs which were twenty, and perhaps more, days old.

My experiments have now shown me that the hatching of the Uji takes place in the stomach of the caterpillar, and that it immediately forces its way through the membrane of the stomach, and makes a path for itself to a Stigma. I will not absolutely set aside my previous conjecture that that penetration takes place from outside through one of the Stigmata; but this occurs rarely, and according to my theory of the hatching of the egg, only when the latter is placed in moist, putrefying matter, which can only occur with careless and dirty breeders. In all the cases observed by me, I can come to a conclusion about the hatching in the stomach; and in experiments which I have made with a large number of fresh eggs which were eaten by caterpillars, I could only find the empty shells in their stomachs.

The smallest Uji corresponds completely in its structure with the larger ones known to every breeder, and exhibits the two air holes at the back as well as the two claws in the front part of its body. It is almost entirely transparent, and one can clearly perceive the internal organs. On account of its diminutive size and its fineness, observations can not be made with the naked eye; for accurate investigations it must be increased to two hundred times its original size.

The small Uji fixes itself in the entry behind a stigma, the head through an opening in the wall of the entry in the fatty part of the body of the caterpillar, and finding nourishment there, while it breathes through the stigma of the caterpillar. It remains in this position until it creeps out of the body of the dead caterpillar or chrysalis, and grows one may say, from the beginning slowly in the body of the caterpillar. On

account of this growth the sides of the entry assume a black' rotten appearance. The trachea which belong to this entry and proceed from it also become black at short distances, shrink and look like dead branches. Should the covering of the entry, during the growth, come in contact with the skin of the caterpillar, it will at once occasion an external dark spot. Sometimes one finds a single large spot, sometimes two or three, and also a circle of small ones around the stigma. By these spots one may be sure of the presence of an Uji inside; but it is not the case that spots are to be seen whenever an Uji is there; for these spots are formed only after the Uji has been there a certain time, and it is to be remembered that the Uji for the most part does not penetrate long before the spinning of the Cocoon. It is also clear that as soon as the Uji deposits the egg in the stomach, it betakes itself to another stigma, because it is usually to be found on one of the front stigma. Up to this it has been thought that one caterpillar seldom contains more than one Uji, but this occurs very frequently. If three or more force their way in, the caterpillar will certainly die without spinning; but when only one enters, the caterpillar is transformed into a chrysalis which then dies. It also happens frequently that the caterpillar is able to spin the cocoon, but can no longer change itself into a chrysalis. Soon after the spinning the Uji leaves the dead chrysalis, and breaks through the cocoon; the hole which it makes, and through which it must force itself is remarkably small,—from two to three m/m in diameter. The cocoon of course is worth just as much or as little, as if it had been pierced by the butterfly, but the silkwormer who has raised it for the purpose of obtaining silkworms' eggs has nearly received the reward of his labour and trouble.

But I may observe here that this case illustrates only one part of the damage done by the Uji. Another injury which has not attracted so much remark, is the diminution in the quantity of silk produced by silk worms containing the Uji, because they are necessarily weakened by these parasites. But as the chrysalis might soon die in the cocoon, and the latter be spun, the grower usually knows nothing of this evil, and notices only the cocoons which the Uji have pierced. I have very frequently found silkworms enfeebled with Uji, who waste a great quantity of silk, commencing to spin here and there, and finally producing only a very thin cocoon. I believe that the loss in silk in this manner considerably exceeds the loss occasioned by the piercing of the cocoons.

After hatching, the larvæ are from 15 to 22 m/m in length and from 5 to 6 m/m in thickness. They have no legs, and in the beginning are of a clear and almost transparent white colour; they crawl about in a lively manner, supporting themselves on the head and back part of the body, contracting and expanding the body and trying to reach the ground, where they hide themselves immediately. There in the space of twelve hours the larva transforms itself, by hardening the outer skin, into a barrel-shaped chrysalis, of about 13 m/m in length and 6 m/m in thickness, and passes the winter in this condition. Even though an Uji cannot hide itself, the transformation into a chrysalis still occurs, whether it is placed on wood, paper or in a glass. It will not hide itself in dry, sandy places, but shrinks up and dies.

As remarked already, in the spring, about the end of April and the beginning of May, a fly escapes from the chrysalis, which develops wings after remaining quietly on the ground for one or two hours; but it remains still longer in the place before it tries its first flight, and during this time it can be caught easily. When it is completely developed, it seeks for some place where it can conveniently live, and thus the circuit, briefly described in these lines, is completed.

One may gather from the preceding description of the development of the Uji, the best means of preventing the damage which it occasions to silk culture, but I am persuaded that the complete exclusion of the Uji from silk-culture is an impossibility; on the other hand, however, the damage which the Uji yearly occasions is so great, that one hears with pleasure that a part exclusion is possible. I may be allowed to mention here some conclusions at which I have arrived, and which I have submitted to the Department of Silk culture in Tokio for further examination. I must leave to practical Silk growers the question as to how far I am correct, and whether my propositions are practicable or not; but of this I feel sure, that from a knowledge of the development of the Uji, and the speculations based thereon, some means of partly abating this evil will be found in a short time.

As already mentioned, the fly likes warm and moist places near rich or swampy land; plantations on good, dry fields are seldom chosen, especially if they are in an airy situation, and these on sandy or gravelly soil are almost wholly exempt from it. Herein lies one of the most important rules for the laying out of new mulberry plantations. Moreover, feeding the silkworm with the leaves of plants grown on sandy soil protects it to a certain extent, but it is not to be expected that all growers are in a position to obtain the necessary quantity of such leaves. It is possible however, if the grower knows the "dangerous period" for his district; because he can then feed them before and after this period with leaves from the moistest places, and need only supply them with leaves from sandy or gravelly soil during this time.

If such land is not in the neighbourhood, but, for instance, spongy soil, it is then to be remembered that the fly likes the leaves exposed to the sun, and lays its eggs on them; hence, in a thick plantation of mulberry trees, those on the edges, and especially those on projecting branches within the plantation, should be regarded as dangerous, and should not be used for food. These may be regarded as so much protection for the rest of the plantation. Isolated rows of trees, such as one sees almost everywhere in wheat and paddy fields, are without exception sought by the fly, if they are on good soil, and in the neighbourhood of mulberry trees standing on moist ground.

The leaves of such trees should only be used before and after the dangerous period. For the cultivation of eggs, only the leaves of trees which grow in sandy or gravelly soil, and in airy situations should be employed.

It is also desirable to accelerate early breedings by artificial warmth, which in a climate like Japan is not very expensive; but this requires great care and constant regulating. On the other hand, there is very little to be feared from the Uji, because they can be destroyed when the eggs begin to grow numerous.

In order however, to make correct use of this hint, it is necessary above all to know correctly the time when the eggs are deposited in the various districts, and to ascertain the same for each exceptional spring. This is not very difficult, as it only requires a knowledge of the insect, and the possession of a good microscope. It would also be necessary to ascertain the time that the Uji is alive in the eggs; and I have good reason for believing that this does not extend into the month of July.

I may mention here that I have tried without success to remove the eggs from the leaves by washing them off. It was of as little use to immerse the leaves in cold water for several hours, and then to dry them. An Uji egg which had been placed in water for twelve hours, and subsequently remained for fourteen days on a withered leaf, exhibited a living Uji when crushed under the microscope.

The peculiar circumstance that plantations on sandy soil are more or less avoided, if they are not too near mulberry trees on moist ground, is chiefly due to the circumstance that the Uji is not fond of migrating. The greater portion of the Ujis comes from breeding places where they escape the attention of the grower and are able to hide in the ground, and to develop themselves quietly during the subsequent spring. They, as stated already, seek for a convenient and moist place in the neighbourhood, and hence it should be a rule to exert great care in catching the Uji when it creeps out of the cocoon, and it should be killed forthwith. In order to render a constant watch unnecessary, the entrance and exit of them must be prevented, and this can easily be done by putting a layer of sand on the ground where the mats which are covered with the cocoons lie, and by separating the same by means of a wooden frame which need stand only about 25 high m/m in front. In the spring also, the neighbourhood of the breeding places should be searched in order to catch all the flies at once. To be successful, this must be done as soon as is possible, because the flies generally spend but a few hours in one neighbourhood, and, as far as my experience goes they all creep out in good weather and within a few days. The flies should also be caught in the fields; and this, especially in the pairing season, can be easily managed by means of a butterfly net.

Few growers will avoid this trouble, which is comparatively little, when they hear that at a low estimate, one fly produces fifteen hundred eggs; and that under favourable circumstances, a small number is sufficient to ruin a whole breeding. I also think it well worth the trouble to see whether it is possible to prevent the flies living in mulberry

plantations by covering the ground with sand or gravel, or by planting some shrub between the mulberry trees which is in some way or other repulsive to the fly, and drives it away.

In conclusion; let me remind those who consider the labour of expelling the *Uji* too great, and who believe that the gains of the grower do not permit of the expenditure of more skill and labour, that the same reasons were urged in Europe against the application of the so-called cellular culture in order to get rid of the Pebrine, which requires much more care and time than the foregoing experiments, and that nevertheless it has been now generally adopted.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE MUST supplement our recommendation of the appointment of a responsible foreign Mint Master, the chief point insisted on in our leading article of to-day, by pointing out that the foreign superintendence of each important department of a Mint here is equally necessary. We cannot do this in terser language than that employed by Mr. Fremantle, the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint of London, in his valuable Report upon the institution under his charge published in *The Times* in 1871. Respecting the Chemical and Assay departments, Mr. Fremantle says:—

"In considering such questions it must always be borne in mind that the operations of minting consist not simply in the mechanical production of accurately adjusted discs of metal, the purity of which has alone to be guaranteed, but in the formation of an alloy composed of precious and base metals in definite proportions, and that not only does the preparation of such an alloy present many difficulties, but that the accuracy of its composition after melting must be absolutely ascertained, that it must be protected during certain processes incidental to coining against a change of standard, and that finally its correctness must again be verified when it has been converted into coin. It is evident, therefore, that it must always be an object of the first importance to a Mint Master to attain the highest possible degree of accuracy in the chemical operations connected with coinage, and more especially in assaying; and no opportunity has been neglected during the past year of applying to the practice of the Mint the experience of the past and the exactness which is the main characteristic of this branch of science at the present day."

That the Government appreciates the truth of this, appears from the fact that when it dispensed with the services of Major Kinder and the major portion of his staff, it retained two of the principal officers, calling them 'technical advisers' of the 'Commissioner.' The foreign mercantile public and foreign Governments have a right to demand that full assurance shall be given that these appointments are to be permanent for a reasonable term of years—and that the officers holding the appointments should be responsible to the foreign Mint Master. The large revenue which Japan will derive from her Mint, should the Government adopt our suggestions, and be successful in procuring the co-operation of the British Government, will reduce the cost of a foreign staff to a trifling percentage on their receipts. As, without a foreign staff to control its issue, their *yen* most certainly will not be made a legal tender in Hongkong; whereas Hongkong, failing some overture from the Japanese Government, will almost certainly decide this year to have a Mint of its own, the sooner the Government pockets its pride the better, that the country's treasury may the sooner be filled with something more substantial.

THE foreign journals of Japan are not alone in their condemnation of Iwasaki's incredible statement of the affairs of the Mitsu Bishi Company. Amongst other notices in the native press, we remark one in the *Hochi Shimbun*, in which the writer very quietly pricks the windbag of patriotism and care for the public welfare shown us by the Director. Public interests are all very well, says this writer, but the duty and business of a private company is to look after its own interests. These secured, the general public will benefit in consequence, but if these are neglected, in a pretended zeal for the public good, nobody benefits at all. As for the Mitsu Bishi Company's subordinate officers' reducing expenditure—the *Hochi Shimbun*

follows the lead of the local foreign press, pointing out that in a well regulated Company there is no unnecessary expenditure to curtail.

We are told, now, that the circular was never intended to be published: that it was only a circular letter printed by the Director as a caution merely to the Company's officers, and that much of the schedule of losses was mere Oriental hyperbole. We all know how, in describing a skirmish, a Japanese historian will tell us that the heavens were darkened by the flights of arrows, and that 'several tens of thousands' of men perished. It would appear that, adopting the historical style, Iwasaki,—when writing that the Shanghai line had lost 300,000 *yen*, only meant to say that the profits had not been so large as he expected them to be. To Western minds this seems an odd way of putting matters, but we suppose we must accept our error as another proof of the fact that the longer we live in Japan, the less accurate is our knowledge of the people and their ways. An offer to purchase a couple of steamers from the Company last week elicited the reply that they were all so fully engaged that none could be parted with; which agrees very badly with Iwasaki's statement that he cannot get freight.

THERE could not be a better proof of the value to the public of the labours of the German Asiatic Society (Der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasien's) than the very interesting and exhaustive paper, by Mr. G. A. Greeven, on the '*Uji*,' a translation of which we give in other columns to-day. Mr. Adams, when writing on Silk Culture in 1870, had not the means at his disposal possessed by Mr. Greeven for studying the subject, and—minute though his description is, and in many respects accurate, it is not so full as our present author's, nor is it so reliable. Mr. Adams, for instance, adopts the theory that "the fly fastens on the young worm, and pricking it, deposits its egg or eggs (for there may be two or more) within the skin; that then, as in similar cases, adipose matter is formed round each egg; that when the egg is hatched, the maggot feeds upon this matter, and increasing in size, penetrates more and more into the intestines of the silkworm." This theory Mr. Greeven's microscopic investigations, his experiments, and observations in the silk districts completely destroy. M. Piquet made some experiments in 1873-4 which led him to the same conclusion, that Mr. Adams was wrong; but unfortunately he was not able to pursue his investigations further, so as to show, as Mr. Greeven does, how the egg is introduced into the intestines of the worm.

We are sure that those of our readers interested in silk culture or the silk trade, who are unable to read Mr. Greeven's very valuable paper in the original, will feel much indebted to him for the information it affords, now that it appears in an English dress; and our own thanks are due to the German Asiatic Society, who have so kindly responded to our offer to make this Review their medium of communication with the English public.

A CORRESPONDENT addresses to us the following letter:—

"To the Editor of the *Japan Times*."

"Dear Sir,

"Can anybody inform me whether there is any truth in the following rumour: The Railway Department intends to raise the through fare from Yokohama to Tokio, 2nd Class, to one *yen*, without increasing the fares between the intermediate stations. The Department will thereafter—in similarity to the recent Notification of the Telegraph authorities—make it a rule, that passengers from Yokohama, whose ultimate destination is Tokio, will henceforth not be allowed to take out tickets for intermediate stations, for instance Kanagawa, and after a short rest there, proceed to Tokio on fresh tickets bought at the Kanagawa Station. The Railway Department will force all such passengers to take out through tickets for Tokio at Yokohama, and will not permit them to leave their seats at Kanagawa. If anybody attempts to circumvent this regulation, by travelling on local tickets, he will be stopped at the first intermediate station, and sent back *in irons* to the Yokohama Station master.

"I am sure it will be of interest to others than myself to

learn whether the above arrangement is actually to be made."

It is a pity to know that there is but the slightest chance of our Japanese friends, either in the Press or the Government seeing the irony of this. It will probably be taken *au sérieux*. Our correspondent will remark that we have thought it prudent to withhold even his pseudonym.

WHEN, three months ago, our contemporary the *Japan Mail* took advantage of a misprint in our columns to read us a lecture on Latinity, we retorted by picking out half-a-dozen misprints from a dozen lines in a Floral Calendar of our rival's, from which we might with equal injustice have impugned that paper's authority on Botany. And we wrote: 'no book, no newspaper, no Review, is safe from misprints . . . they are even to be found in the leading columns of *The Times &c., &c.*' A singularly strong example is given us in the first page of the *Economist* of February 16th. In a most important article on 'The Bank Rate,' the writer has occasion to quote some evidence given by the Governor of Bank of England, Mr. James Morris, before a committee of the House of Lords in 1848; and makes him say: "I consider" were Mr. Morris's words, "that in London the discounts by other parties, the great discount brokers and The amount of bills under discount held by the Bank of England at the present date is not known &c., &c. The continuation of Mr. Morris's answer from the words 'brokers and'—viz. "bankers, must be equal to the amount which the Bank holds under discount"—do not appear until the reader turns the page, when he finds them on the top of it. Mr. Morris' answer thus was:—

"I consider that in London, the discounts by other parties, the great discount brokers and bankers, must be equal to the amount held under discount."

And the paragraph immediately succeeding this has got transposed from its proper place in the third page of the paper to the first. The whole argument is dislocated, and until the reader detects the errors, and replaces the transposed sentences to their right places, the article is nearly incomprehensible. And the most extraordinary part of the whole business is that the *Economist* does not think it worth while to correct the blunder in its issue of the following week.

WE have very carefully preserved the style of the original in the following extract from the *Thoya Shim-bun*, on the sadly-increasing extravagance and arrogance of the Japanese wife, since despotism was nominally abolished and civilization and constitutionalism, with their excrescences, 'woman's rights' among the number, came into fashion in Japan.

There seems to be no manner of doubt that contact with foreigners and the establishment of the native press are directly responsible for this new display of the 'detestable custom' of wives taking precedence of their husbands. How pathetic are the two pictures drawn by the writer. The poor coolie, after a long day's toil in a rice field, and dragging a *jirikisha*, returning home dead beat, and having fairly earned the right to a nice hot bath and a smoking bowl of rice—told by the virago 'that owns him' to draw the water and clean the rice before he puts his dirty feet on her clean mats:—and the scarcely less pathetic *tableau* of my lord coming home from a fatiguing Board to find my lady pouting and pettish, and requiring the excitement of a concert or a theatre to bring back a smile. and having to hurry into his dress suit, after a scamped, indigested dinner to accompany her. This sort of thing, we knew, happened in effete Western communities, where the 'joyous life' has been long extinct; it is something new to learn that, in Japan, civilization has made wives disagreeable and husbands unhappy. Yet this would seem to be the case from the following paragraphs:—

"Some time back arguments *pro* and *con*, on the question that men and women had equal rights, and should have equal privileges, used to occupy much space in our newspapers. But the discussion soon dropped, and we now hear nothing of it. But still we see in practice, in the country generally, that men have much greater power than women. On the other hand, however, there are many cases among the lower classes of the community, where the woman has greater power than the man. For

"instance, the husband goes out in the morning to his work, and after labouring all the day, comes home tired in the evening, when his wife gives him orders to 'draw water' or to 'clean the rice before you come in' or employs him, any how, in some fashion. And so women acquire a detestable pride as every one knows. Lately, moreover, we have discovered a similar practice existing amongst gentlemen of the higher classes. Is not this a strange thing? The gentleman goes out in the morning to his office, and having conducted it all day, comes home in the evening, when his wife says: 'To-morrow is a holiday, we will go to the theatre'—or 'I am very *ennuyés* this evening, we will go to some entertainment.' And the affairs of the whole house being under the control of the wife, the gentleman,—the husband—can do nothing as he wishes. Cases like this are numerous. Formerly, that the husband should not have the exclusive power of ruling all things in his own house, was the origin of the argument that men and women should have equal rights: how much more necessary is discussion, now that wives have grown so powerful! We have come to the conclusion that this is owing to the fact that not a few of our gentlemen take wives from the low class of singing-girls, &c., and these, after becoming wives, cannot forego the habits they were accustomed to in the time of their youth and during their education by their parents: and their husbands having originally taken them to wife, on account of deep affection for them, and after accustoming them to have large amounts of money spent upon them; thus the relation existing between them is far different from those who had married with due ceremony and proper go-betweens; and they are unable to correct any of their wives' defects, and so these detestable habits have originated. Such wives as these, women of no ability, only careful for luxurious food and fine clothing and not considering that they enjoy so happy a life only by the kindness of their husbands, become proud as mentioned above. This we deeply regret. But let us hope that these are things past, and that, through it may be difficult to get rid of such habits all at once—those who marry in future will not follow such courses as those we have indicated."

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramson's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he or some one else may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can any one say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosei" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, some other student may be able to do the same for it.

3.—Can any account be got of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c. (Unanswered.) X.

Qy. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction. (Unanswered.) B. A.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat; the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium temulentum* or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineæ*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions. (Unanswered.) R. N.

Qy. 11. Many of your readers, when walking towards the new cemetery, must have remarked the *tumuli*, about twelve in number, which dot the table land which lies above Ota on the one side, and the hill of Tobe on the other. These *tumuli* are religiously preserved from the spoiling of the farmer, and must have some history; are they the burying-places of heroes fallen in some old quarrel? Can any of your readers enlighten me? (Unanswered.) T.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, May 3rd.

THE *Malacca*, bringing the English mail of the 15th of March, arrived in harbour on Tuesday last. The *City of Peking*, on the same day, returned to port in consequence of an accident to her machinery. The *Tanais* left with the French mail on Wednesday, due in London June 24th. The English mail leaves on the 5th inst. due in London July 1st. We are sorry to say that she will take, as a passenger, the most deservedly popular Agent of the P. & O. Company, Mr. G. Bickett, Junr. He has well earned his leave by long and arduous service—but none the less shall we be glad to welcome his return. We have no other mail intelligence of importance to report. The weekly Shanghai and coast ports mails have arrived and departed.

The accident to the *Peking's* engines is hardly susceptible of a 'popular' explanation: because, when one says that her next to aftermost crank-pin gave way, and that the difficulty of repair consists in extracting those parts on to which the cranks are shrunk, one's fair reader asks 'what is a crank-pin?' and there you are—reduced to first principles. But experts will appreciate the magnitude of the disaster which might have occurred, had the conditions under which the accident happened been less favourable. Occurring to the last crank but one of the four, instead of to the last, as might have been; and happening when the ship was near port, instead of in mid-ocean, the engines were not entirely disabled, and the vessel was able to make her harbour. Again, the crank-pin did not give way with a clean break, but was only fractured and bent. Another most fortunate circumstance was that there happened to be here in store a spare 'beam-setter'—the pin on which the 'walking-beam' with which we are all familiar in another class of engine, works—and but little work on this was requisite to make it into a new crank-pin for the *Peking*. And again a great piece of luck, the broken pin was got out of place with unexpected ease. The Company is therefore to be congratulated on so fortunate an escape from what might have been a serious disaster. We pass to other topics.

About the most significant telegram we have had for a long time from England is that announcing that eight thousand Volunteers have come forward as the nucleus of an entirely new corps. How much this tells us! Of the heart of a people beating with one desire—"of our land

"that has lost for a little her lust of gold,
And love of peace that was full of wrongs and snarles;"

of the gilded youth of England yearning to show that the true metal is not all on the surface, that the old spirit that animated our ancestors asks for nothing but opportunity to fan it into flame. Better backing this, for a Minister preferring war to a suspicion of dishonour, than perfunctory votes of confidence from obedient majorities in Lords or Commons: better evidence of the nation's support than millions of money granted to his Chancellor of the

Exchequer;—and, we believe cordially, more potent to curb an ambitious opponent's advance than the movements of a fleet or the despatches of an ambassador. Beyond this, nothing of great importance has been brought to us by the wire.

Turning to our local news, we are glad to put on record the acquittal from blame of the Captain of the *Fire Queen*, whose total loss in Sendai Bay we mentioned last month; the finding of the Court of Enquiry being that "the loss of the ship is another illustration of the unreliable nature of the currents on the coast of Japan." Extraordinary country:—last week the Director of its national mail line publishes a report of which nobody can believe a word; its currency is most unreliable paper, and now it appears that even the currents on the coast are not to be depended on!

Punch has made a prompt appearance this month, but the number is far from being so good as the last. Homer, however; we know, sometimes nods, and the conductor of a local weekly invariably (if our local caricaturist is to be believed,) goes to sleep on Sunday afternoons in the Club: so Punch must occasionally be allowed to take a holiday, and give us a dull number. How dreadfully the London comic journal has fallen off of late, by the way. An editor of such a periodical ought never to have such decided views on politics as are now advocated at 85, Fleet Street. Shirley Brooks' mantle has by no means fallen on his successor, and the Essence of Parliament has lost its delicate fragrance, and induces, instead of dissipating, weariness. *Appropos*, what very uncomfortable chairs those are in the Club, to go to sleep in!

Punch's criticism of *Trial by Jury* is one of the best that has appeared: how thoroughly everyone endorses his aspiration that it may soon be played again. But we fear this is hardly likely, Dave Carson is announced, however, to be on his way hither, and as his *troupe* will probably appear on the evenings of a couple of the Race days, he will have, at all events, a lively audience, though perhaps not so large as he might wish; since so many residents are going to avail themselves of the race holidays to make rather prolonged trips into the country. One is inclined to doubt whether they are not right. The first meeting of the new Race Club promises to be a very interesting one; but Japan is at her loveliest now that Spring is dancing out so joyously on her thousand hills and vales, and the scarlet and green of her dress of azalea and maple and tender young foliage is a prettier combination than any of the colours of our gentlemen jocks. Happily our race-course, surely the most beautifully situated in the world, gives us somewhat of both pleasures, though we must miss the restful calm of the forest, and exchange for the noise of the packlock and the ring, the throistle's note, and the babble of the brook.

Which reminds us that we must not omit to thank our contemporary the *Herald*, for a copy of the very neatly printed and conveniently arranged Race-book. This is quite a little volume, giving us, besides the *menu* of various "Plates" and "Cups" space also for recording purchases at Sweeps and Lotteries and lists of winners of the principal races since 1867. What pleasant memories these lists recall, but what sad thoughts, too, of dead or vanished friends! But it will never do to be sentimental on the eve of a Race-Week. Rather, to be in the fashion, let us venture on Prophecies, not indulge in Lamentations,

FIRST DAY.

Trial Plate. *Gone Away* 1. *Velocity* 2. *Brown Satin* or *Vanguard* 3.
Griffins' Plate. *Admiral Rous* (in a canter) 1. *Kiazoku* (with a start) 2. *Vampire* or *Sat. Elm* 3.
Celestial Cup. *Dibs* 1. *Lintie* 2. *Chief Mongolian* 3.
Bankers' Cup. *Allendale* 1. *Telephone* 2.
Ten Cup. *Admiral Rous* 1. *Petrol* 2. *King All Francis* 3.
Professional Cup. *Bonny Doon* 1. *Braemar* 2. *Sport* 3.
Mitsu Bishi Challenge Cup. *Kangaroo* 1. *Annandale* 2. *Distemper* 3.
Consular Cup. *Dibs* 1. *Lintie* 2. *Chance* or *Crusader* 3.
Ito Cup. *Oyama* 1. *Annandale* 2. *King All Francis* 3.

SECOND DAY.

Community Cup. *Lintie* 1. *Dibs* 2. *Chance* 3.
Visitors' Cup. *Kiazoku* 1. *Petrol* 2. *Vampire* 3.
Merchants' Cup. *Hoole* 1. *Bonny Doon* 2.
Ladies' Purse. *Chief Mongolian* 1. *Allendale* 2. *Gone Away* 3.
Diplomatic Cup. *Oyama* 1. *Montique* 2.
Mitsu Bishi Challenge Cup. *Dibs* 1. *Braemar* 2.
Lusitano Cup. *Kangaroo* 1. *Annandale* 2.
Hack Stakes. *Antelope* 1. *Isanhor* 2.
Spring Cup. *Annandale* 1. *Petrol* 2.

THIRD DAY.

Hurdle Race. *Lithslate* 1. *Admiral Rous* 2. *Gladiator* 3.
Owners' Cup. *Chief Mongolian* 1. *Grey Friar* 2.
China Champion. *Braemar* 1. *Dibs* 2. *Bonny Doon* 3.
Japan Champion. *Oyama* 1. *Allendale* 2.
China Consolation. *Sunbeam* 1. *Velocity* 2.
Japan Consolation. *Distemper* 1. *King All Francis* 2.
Ledger Cup. *Allendale* 1. *Dibs* 2. *Lintie* 3.

Offended at our presumption in praising him last Friday, the Clerk of the Weather stopped the Athletic Sports on Saturday by a disagreeably wet day; so that they had to be postponed to Monday. Fair weather then again favoured the Association, but owing to Saturday's disappointment arrangements, had been made for other events, and the attendance was not equal to that of the first day. We anticipated, however, a good day's sport, and had it, for the races were keenly contested and resulted in close finishes. We must except the half-mile, which was a gift to Kilby, who made the best of his start, and was never approached. All, however, were pleased at the Secretary's victories, in this and in the 150 yards; as, besides staunchly carrying through the arduous duties of his post, he has all along been very steady in his attendance on the path, and his form has considerably improved during the last year. It was a good day for 'officials,' for Cobden, too, reaped the harvest of his experiences as starter, going away from the four other competitors in the married men's and Honorary Members' Race and winning easily. He carried off an appropriate prize, which may be devoted to concocting 5 o'clock tea,—delicious meal—the brewing of punch, or—dare we say—the warming of caudle. The boys race fell to Kingdon, after a sharp tussle with Vincent, who could not make up his mind on which side to pass his competitor, and so lost ground. The jumping events proved very interesting. A. H. Dare won the hurdle race from scratch in good style. In the high jump, Olmsted, leaping very elegantly, cleared 5 ft. 2 in.; and with the pole, A. H. Smith got over 9 ft. Charlesworth (2nd.) jumping well, but failing to clear 8 ft. 9 in. which, with his allowance of 4 in. would have given him the prize. The Yokohama Athletes, by the way, are still in the rear with the pole, the best performance having been done in Shanghai, viz. 10 ft. 3 in. Mr. Smith is a strong and graceful pole-jumper, but he lacks practice, and—it seemed to us on Monday—condition. This competition was keenly watched by the members of the faculty, one of them evidently considering the heap of sawdust placed for the gymnast to alight upon, a mean, if not a needless precaution.

The great feature of the day was the steeple-chase. This year the Committee had selected a new course, which had the great advantage of enabling the spectators to see the competitors throughout the run; on previous occasions, they had been lost to sight in bamboo copses, wooded hill-sides, &c. and their 'shreddy' costumes at the finish, alone bore witness to the severity of the work. This year, by putting up some artificial fences on the inner part of the ground, a very severe course had been obtained. Starting from the Grand Stand, along the flat to the water jump, wider than in previous years, and then over a hurdle Dare and Lingham led the field; up the Bluff to the right, and down again, of course, Dare improved his lead; he loves that hill-side and a 'coulasse' by which the descent is made has been worn out by him in former hunts. Returning again to level ground, Lingham fast gains on him, and at the second water jump, a pretty piece of bank, fence and ditch, he takes the lead. And wisely, for the lead gave him a great advantage at the 'gridiron,' a complicated espalier-like machine of bamboo, over which—walking, jumping, floundering, and rolling,—the performers had to pass, amidst roars of laughter at their disasters. All plans were tried by various men, but all seemed equally puzzling. At the water jump, for the second time of taking, Dare fell badly, and knocked out of himself most of his remaining wind. Lingham was therefore left to finish as he liked, Smith obtaining third prize, losing by two seconds from Dare, who gamely struggled in second, in spite of his tumble; Clode, who had enjoyed three several baths on the road, bringing up the rear.

We cannot close this record of the Spring Meeting of the A.A.A. without noticing the performances of Mr. Ward, one of the Tokio representatives. He proved himself good pretty well all round, winning the 100 yards race, and running a very good second in the 150 yards, and the same in the walking race. He also won the hammer-throw with a very fair cast of 87 ft. 7 in. In this he wants practice for style, rather than for strength, for "right kin of Thor, he clove his way through, right onward amain." We hope to see him and other Tokio men well forward at our sports at the next meeting.

A sailors' half-mile race, won by Taylor, of the *Kestrel*, brought the sports to an end: and the prizes were then presented by Mrs. Rickett, who congratulated each successful competitor or his victory in a few kindly sentences, as he was presented to her. It seemed, by the way, as if the meeting had been too successful, one luckless wight only being left to walk over for the Consolation. Three and one more hearty cheers for Mrs. Rickett, expressive at the same time of the spectators' thanks to her for presiding, and their good wishes for *bon voyage* home next week; three more for the ladies of Yokohama, and three more for 'our noble selves' closed the very pleasant and successful A.A.A.'s Spring Meeting of 1878.

To-morrow, (Saturday) we hear that the Cricket Club opens its season with a match, the Club v The Services and the Professions. We conclude by giving the solution of our last week's puzzle. French scholars must please to imagine the accents.

5 AOUT, 1873.

MENU.

Tortue claire.
Purée de Pois à la Conde.

Blanchaille de Havens.

Turbot, sauce Homard.
Filets de Saumon froids à la Norvegienne.

Olives Espagnoles farcies.

Vol-au-vent à la Financière.
Cailles desossées à la Purée de Tomates.
Ris d'Agneau piqués aux Concombres.

Canapees de Foies gras à la Lucullus.

Hanche de Venaison.

Salade à l'Italienne.

Leveraut. Dindonneau.

Truffes à la Serviette.

Compote d'abricots à la mille Feuilles.
Gelée à la Russe.

Soufflé glace à la Vanille.

Fromage à la Mayonnaise.
Jemmappes.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XVIII. THE CALDRON OF OIL.

NEARLY all the nobles resident at Fushimi—some four score in number—as well as the court officials and officers of the household, assembled to witness the interview between the Regent and the robber. Apart from the unparalleled daring and magnitude of the man's crimes, his fortitude under the torture had imparted a certain romantic interest to his fate. He had not hesitated to confess his own guilt, but as yet no suffering had been able to wring from him the names of his accomplices, and this fact, added to the peculiar creed of discrimination he had always followed in the choice of his victims, excited a universal curiosity, not unmixed with commiseration. The Regent himself was well content to foster this excitement for the sake of its results. The occasion could scarcely have warranted an official convocation of peers and statesmen, but their voluntary presence at the confession of Hidetsugu's treason, would largely facilitate the Minister's subsequent punishment.

Goyemon was carried into the castle garden and propped up in a kneeling position before the verandah. One half of his body was completely paralyzed, and the rest scarcely less infirm, but his eyes, dilated by pain and blazing with fever, seemed to be animated by all the vitality his nerves had lost. A phalanx of guards and officers kneeled on either side, and from the alcove where Taiko sat, to the very edge of the verandah, all the spaces of the immense hall and the long corridors that bounded it, were occupied by a crowd of dukes, earls, barons and bannerets.

Ishida Mitsunari addressed Goyemon:—"Prisoner, though your crimes have outraged the ordinances of heaven and the laws of men, His Highness the Regent has graciously yielded to your prayer, and condescended to receive your confession himself. Speak therefore, with the respect and candour that such clemency deserves."

Goyemon, bowed with suffering and exhaustion, seemed to have assumed a position of obeisance, but at Ishida's words he straightened himself with a supreme effort, and after a leisurely survey of the assembly, fixed his gleaming eyes on the Regent.

"I have not confessed to your councillors," he said, and the vigour of his voice contrasted strangely with his en-

feebled condition, "because if justice were equal, they should have shared, not directed my punishment, and the statement I am about to make now is not wrested from me by torture, for my body has suffered all that it can endure, nor yet by awe, for as the descendant of Ishikawa Sayemon, I see nothing here but a host of upstarts and plebeians."

At this curious exordium, Taiko caused the blind that concealed his face to be raised, and looked out in astonishment at the prisoner.

"I have had many under my orders," continued Goyemon, "but of them I shall say nothing, since the servant is not responsible for his master's acts, and since I come here to tell you, not of myself, but of a robber in whom alone I acknowledge a master; a robber whose crimes have as far surpassed mine as his present unparalleled magnificence mismatches his infinitely mean origin. I have never stolen from the poor or oppressed the weak, but he has been the author of indiscriminating misery, and his frauds have impoverished the whole country. I have never forgotten my fealty, but he has murdered or enthralled the sons of the man that raised him from nothingness to nobility, and purloined their inheritance. If my enterprises have involved the deaths of a hundred miscreants, his ambition has cost Japan thousands and tens of thousands of her noblest lives, and if my plunder has been the miser's gold and the extortioner's gains, the object of his theft has been the sixty-four provinces of Japan. This is the robber that I denounce. Choose for yourselves the least opprobrious of his names; Hiyoshi, Saranosuke, Tokichiro, Hashiba, Hideyoshi or Taiko?"

If the Storm Dragon or the God of Thunder had suddenly swept down from the blue sky of summer into the castle gardens and the presence of that august assembly, the apparition could scarcely have been accompanied by greater amazement and consternation than Goyemon's words produced. Bitterer, a thousand times bitterer than this vilest of insults, was the utter impossibility of avenging it, for did this ruffian reviler possess a myriad lives, the total of their cruellest and most agonizing annihilations could balance but a tithe of the indignity he had put upon the aristocracy of Japan. Words to express their wrath, expedients to vindicate their honour, measures to appease their passion, all alike failing, this century of outraged potentates sat glaring impotently on the solitary author of their shame.

The Regent himself however showed no signs of anger. Restraining the Censor Hideiye, who was about to lower the dais curtain, he scrutinised the faces of the courtiers for a moment, and then burst into a loud laugh. "You shall obtain your wish, miserable scoundrel," he said, addressing Goyemon, "but if I put a term to your suffering, it is not because you have moved me by impertinences which you do not believe yourself, but because I do not choose to expose my officers to the insults you might utter under torture. Let him be removed, Ishida. His execution is fixed for to-morrow morning."

The gleam of joyful relief that lit up Goyemon's pallid face as he was carried away, proved how truly Taiko had divined the motives of his conduct. He thought nothing of the possible form of his death: it was sufficient that he had obtained permission to die while he had still strength to die bravely. Hours of exquisite suffering had not daunted him, but their sequel had been pregnant with a terrible presage of fever lurking in shattered bones and torn flesh; fever that opens the chambers of the poisoned brain and betrays the most sacred secrets of the heart. From this there was no escape but death, and never has rapture of reprieve been keener to a condemned criminal, than sentence of execution was welcome to this maimed sufferer.

But Taiko had resolved that the horror of the man's end should atone for its acceleration. He invited the courtiers to send in proposals describing the form of death each deemed most terrible.

Merciless and undignified as this suggestion was, the august councillors and peers received it with acclamation, not only for the sake of its novelty, but because all would thus contribute to avenge the insult offered to all. After much consultation and consideration, a number of propositions were submitted. Some embodied the combined wisdom of three or four projectors; other were the devices of solitary artists; a few were in verse, and several had pictures attached, descriptive of the tortures they recom-

mended. The Censor, Hideiye, suggested crucifixion with the head downwards; Ishida advised drawing by oxen, and Nagatsuka advocated burying up to the neck in the ground and cutting off the head with a wooden saw. But nothing of all this found favour with Taiko. Goyemon's crimes, he said were unparalleled, and his punishment should therefore be unprecedented. It was necessary that posterity's memory of his deeds should be inseparable from that of the suffering they had entailed, and no form of death as yet proposed was adequate to secure this result.

Barbarity seemed to be on the point of defeating itself from lack of ability to be sufficiently barbarous, when Hideyuki, the young Earl of Aizu, then a lad only fifteen years old, suggested that Goyemon should be put in a large caldron of oil and boiled alive. This idea was hailed with delight by most of the courtiers, and immediately received the Regent's approval, in spite of the remonstrances of the Duke of Kaga and a few other merciful men, who contemplated such an atrocious act with horror and abhorrence.

The news of this pitiless decision was carried to Goyemon at once. It was no small part of his torture that he should be obliged to anticipate it, and surely the thought of the inconceivable anguish that awaited him in the morning must have been a fearful companion to his loneliness all through the long watches of that last night. Did the memory of Chiyo, the gentle-hearted, faithful Chiyo, look in on him and lighten the gloom as he lay crushed and lacerated on the hard floor of his cell, or was the darkness peopled by phantoms of remorse, and ghosts of ill deeds that crept up from the sepulchre of the past? None can tell, for those that watched him found something so awful in the immensity of his past and the mystery of his future sufferings, that they dared not address him, and even spoke with bated breath in his presence, so that from dusk to dawn he remained speechless and almost motionless, his head resting on his arms and his face hidden.

Chiyo meanwhile, her vague forebodings cruelly intensified by Goyemon's parting words, had passed the preceding night before the cenotaph of Kanko,* the tutelary saint of suffering innocence. Many a time before had she taken refuge with her uncle, the canon of Tenjin, during the progress of Goyemon's enterprises, but never until that day had the possibility of failure been admitted or even—so far as she knew—conceived by her husband, and when solitude and darkness hid her from eyes that might have surprised her secret, she fell into an agony of suspense, scarcely less difficult to endure than the tortures presently to be inflicted on her husband. With all her brave resolution she could no longer struggle against the conviction that she had ceased to hope and now only awaited the confirmation of her fears.

But when and in what form would that confirmation come? This was the question that repeated itself again and again, until its echoes seemed to people the stillness deepening around her. In her harrowing disquiet she was no longer able to shape those set formulae with which men are wont to implore the help of heaven, but if prayer have any kinship with the passionate invocations that rise from the soul in its moments of supreme anguish, if prayer be not altogether different from the voiceless appeals that helplessness and despair address to some power acknowledged most in times of trouble; then surely she prayed with a fervour that might well have won fuller pity than she found.

Midnight had long been marked by the temple bell, when she was visited by a strange fancy, the creation it might be of a fevered brain, the evidence it might be of that mysterious power which, on the eve of eternal separation, carries love's farewell from heart to heart with a force that mocks at distance.

On the golden ground of a panel in the fane of Tenjin, the last scene of Kanko's life was depicted. Worn and

* Kanko or Michizane was second Minister of State (Udaijin) under the Emperor Udajō. He fell a victim to the intrigues of the Sadaijin (Fujiwara) and was banished to Tsukushi in Chikuzen, where he died after seven days' fasting and prayer. It is said that his favorite trees, a plum and a pine, disappeared from his garden at Kyoto and grew up in one night at his place of exile, and that the written petition in which he implored the gods to establish his innocence, having been fastened by him to a branch of this miraculous plum and carried to the top of Mount Tempai, was snatched up to heaven in a whirlwind. His fate drew down the curse of the deities on the Imperial family, and obliged the Emperor Yenguin to build the fane of Tenjin as an atonement. F.B.

emaciated by seven days of supplication and fasting, he stood on the summit of Mount Tempai, bearing aloft in his hands the plum branch to which his petition was attached. The whirlwind that subsequently carried this petition to the throne of the gods was already wreathing its turbulent eddies about his feet, and beating against his features, rigid with anguish and entreaty, while through a rift in the blackness of the storm, the eye fell upon a distant stretch of curving shore, studded with comfortable cottages and bathed by a sun-lit sea, into which mews and curlews dipped their snowy bosoms. Gazing almost unconsciously at this picture, it seemed to Chiyo that Kanko's figure gradually assimilated itself to that of her husband, the plum branch in his hand becoming a sword with which he opposed the attacks of some invisible enemy, while at the same time he struggled to free himself from the whirlwind, now transformed into an immense snake, coiled about his feet. The terrified girl covered her eyes for a moment, believing that this dread conception had grown out of the intensity of her own gaze, but when she looked again, the picture had not changed. Goyemon still stood sword in hand, half his body hidden by the dark folds of the snake, but presently, tottering as though about to fall, he turned towards his wife a face of such anguished despair that her heart ceased to beat and a cry of horror parted her lips.

It was at that very moment that Goyemon sank to the ground among his enemies in the Regent's castle, and at once, deep into Chiyo's soul, entered the despair she read in his gaze before a mist of tears hid him from her eyes for ever. Had she been with him from first to last; had she seen him beset, dragged down and bound by a host of foes, the fatal truth could not have been borne in on her with more distinctness than it was by the magical changes of this picture. She knew, knew beyond the possibility of doubt, that her forebodings were realized, and that she could never be with her husband again, save in memory. And even this sad solace seemed to fail her; for although in the overwhelming dreariness of her desolation she would fain have summoned from the past some kind experience or happy retrospect, nothing came to her but the overlasting echo of Goyemon's farewell words, "remember only what I have tried to be for your sake."

The voice of true sorrow in its first intensity is ever thus a monotone. However varied and individually terrible the steps by which the final catastrophe has been reached, the breaking heart always selects as the key-note of its threnody some simple reminiscence, often the last, sometimes the least important, of the sad series, and to this attunes all the cadence of its regrets. Not the many sweet tokens of dawning intelligence awakened by her care, nor yet the smiles or tears she has so often summoned or soothed, minister most to the bereaved mother's early sorrow, but some trivial memory, such as, it may be, the first pressure of her baby's fingers, it may be its last lisping of her name. So, too, in the bitter pain of recent loss, love does not busy itself with long retrospects of delightful fellowship or reviews of passionate hours, but rather recalls some passing glance of tenderness or half uttered whisper of devotion. It is only when the flood of tears begins to subside, that we discover, one by one, the relics over which its waves had surged.

Dawn, sunshine and noonday, but as yet no tidings of Goyemon. The moment had come when Chiyo must elect either to follow her husband's orders and leave Kiyoto, or remain at the risk of her own and her son's lives. She did not choose, and yet she remained: remained, hour after hour, listening with sickening dread to the sounds of life in the city and starting at every voice that disturbed the quiet of the cloister. Sometimes she thought of confiding in her uncle, sometimes she was on the point of going out and questioning those that came from time to time to worship at the shrine, but the idea of what she might hear was so shocking that even suspense seemed preferable.

When evening came however, and the feet of the pilgrims growing less and less frequent, silence and seclusion once more possessed the old fane, she determined to return to her home and learn the worst, or, it might be, perish with her husband.

On the way, she might easily have obtained the information she sought, for men, sitting at the thresholds of their dwellings in the summer evening's cool, or standing in groups before the bath-houses, were already discussing the horrors of the following morning, but suffering had

made her so painfully timid that she now almost regretted the solitude of the cloister, and shrinking back in her palanquin, clasped her child to her throbbing heart, scarcely daring to think,—nay, scarcely capable of thinking.

She dismissed her attendants however, when still some distance from her destination, and performed the rest of the way on foot, at first walking rapidly but insensibly diminishing her speed as she came in sight of the house. An old pine grew before the gate, stretching one of its arms across the lintel almost to the vestibule within. Under this she stood for a long time, vainly summoning courage to demand admission. The stillness was so appalling: no voice, no light, no sound; only the soft breathing of her sleeping child, and an almost imperceptible tremor of the pine sprays overhead. Had life and sense, then, utterly deserted the place and was it already peopled by the silent shades of those she had loved and been beloved by?

She waited cowering beside the pine tree, conscious that if nothing came to break this ghostlike hush, she must remain for ever under the influence of its spell. But presently the feet of the faintly treading breeze passed rustling up the avenue behind her. Nearer and nearer it came, until, wreathing her in fragrances of the lily and lotus and shaking the arms of the pine above, it finally pushed gently at the gate beside her, and lo! the heavy leaves, swinging slowly back on their hinges, disclosed the court-yard and the vestibule, sombre and deserted.

Chiyo sprang in and entered the house. She did not speak or call, but passing quickly from room to room, found all the doors and windows open, and the whole place dismantled and untenanted. She was alone, utterly alone: unable even to fly from this solitude and yet knowing instinctively that it had been caused by the apprehension of some peril to which she exposed herself by remaining. Until that moment she had borne up bravely, but this merciless evidence of the worst, this hopeless, unutterable desolation, this absence of all fellowship or sympathy in the very place where but a few hours before she had been so happy and so confident; all this was too rude a shock for her tender heart. She sat down, not tearful or complaining, but stunned and almost senseless. Fate had led her back to her home, and against fate she had neither strength nor will to struggle any longer.

Alas, that the darkness of sorrow should have clouded so gentle a mind and the weight of suffering crushed so sweet a nature! And yet it was perhaps better that it should be so, for even then, search and enquiry were conducting the emissaries of the law nearer and nearer to that solitary house and its one unhappy inmate.

Yes! the decree that sentenced Goyemon, extended his punishment to his family. Insatiability of revenge rather than refinement of cruelty had dictated this clause, and though its knowledge would have multiplied beyond endurance the sufferings of Goyemon's last night, inadvertence, not compassion, permitted him to remain in ignorance. It was little likely indeed that his judges could understand how small a portion of the man's heart was occupied by the consciousness of his own fate. Enormity of crime scarcely possible to any but the sternest disposition; robust energy that seemed to deride every gentle sentiment; recklessness that defied both Gods and men, and arrogance that scoffed at rule and rank: behind all this, who would have looked to find a passionate love, robbing death of every pain but separation, and deeming any sentence merciful that did not include the object of its affection. Yet such things are neither new nor strange; for even as the pearl-shells in the abyss of an ocean valley are hidden by the waves that rock on the surface, so the coldest and harshest natures often enclose a jewel of tenderness that only becomes really visible when the storms of life cease to trouble the depths that conceal it.

The earliest rays of the midsummer sun were still low on the horizon, when the troops assembled to escort the prisoner to the plain of the Seven Rivers and Roads at Kiyoto. Two hundred men under the command of three veteran captains formed the van-guard—an extraordinary precaution suggested by the condemned man's relations with the Prime Minister—then followed sixty halberdiers, the blades of their long weapons uncased and glittering in the morning light; then a band of *shirri*, shouldering strange implements for the capture of malefactors—grapnels, crooks, jagged-heads and clutch-poles—and finally a rear-guard, consisting of a hundred and fifty men-at-

arms. Goyemon was placed between the halberdiers and the *shirri*. He had desired to be dressed entirely in white and conducted to his execution on horseback, and his requests were immediately accorded, for the law treats its victims with disdainful kindness in their last moments.

In this guise then, the cavalcade set out, and having made the inner and outer circuits of the Regent's castle, took the road to Kiyoto. The morning hazes were still brooding over the woods, and the leaves had not yet shaken off the dew of slumber, but round and above the great city a hoarse, myriad-voiced wave of sound surged and rolled in over-deepening volume; for all the population of the Capital and the country, marvelling at the fabulous deeds of the criminal, and moved most of all by the appalling nature of his punishment, was flowing from street and suburb in unceasing streams towards the Plain of the Rivers and Roads.

Down to that immensity of life, threatening to pursue him with its clamour into the silence of eternity; down to the scenes of past pleasures and triumphs, whose mournful memory would haunt the sleep of death; down to the place of torture, inconceivable, unendurable, the miserable man rode, his body racked with pain and his heart bursting with dread. Not the dread of anything that waited himself, but a sickening apprehension lest among the always increasing crowd of faces that watched him from wayside or window, his eyes might at any moment encounter Chiyo and his son. If this were to happen; if the loving girl were to spring to him and proclaim him her husband—as her fearless faith would surely impel her to do—if the shadow of his fate should fall on her, and draw her with him to agony and death, then indeed he knew that his manhood would break like a straw before the hurricane, and his misery crush him in the sight of all the people. Insensible to everything but this overpowering anxiety, his haggard gaze rolled unceasingly from side to side over the turbulent sea of spectators, and the great heart of the multitude, sensitive and sympathetic, detecting this fearful scrutiny, answered it by a low murmur of awe and pity.

A few furlongs before debouching on the Plain of the Rivers and Roads, the procession passed the house of Mori Joken, a banneret with whom Goyemon had been on terms of the greatest intimacy. It is hard to leave this world of love and fellowship without the echo of a single familiar voice ringing in one's ear, or the glance of a single compassionate eye softening the aspect of death, and Goyemon, oppressed with loneliness, and visited suddenly by the pleasant memories that lingered about this well known spot, from whence too, his own home was visible, asked permission to halt a moment, and receive a draught of wine from Sir Mori's servants. He was careful not to hint at his acquaintance with the banneret, but simply based his request on the old nobleman's reputation as a benevolent philosopher.

Goyemon's real character had been entirely unknown to Sir Mori, and it was with a solicitude surprising to himself that the condemned man waited to see whether his former friend would utterly cast him off in this, the hour of his disgrace. He dared not hope that the banneret would himself appear, but he determined that if his request were entertained in any form, he should regard it as a token of sympathy.

Sir Mori, keenly commiserating his friend's misfortunes, was induced to grant this entreaty not only by the impulses of a truly kind heart, but also because he had accidentally come to the knowledge of the circumstances attending the robber's capture, and pardoned his crimes for the sake of the magnanimity with which he had preferred sacrificing his own life to raising his hand against his former benefactor. The draught of wine was therefore presented, not by the banneret's vassals, but by the banneret himself, dressed as he might have dressed to receive an honoured guest, and holding in his hands the very flask and goblet that Goyemon had so often admired. But it was not the sympathy of this faithful friend that made the dying man's heart swell with unspeakable gratitude, nor was it sharp regret that choked his utterance and clouded his eye, but the aspect of Momoji Sandayu, standing beside the banneret, and looking full and frank forgiveness at his old pupil. Some that happened to be near Goyemon at that moment, observing that he trembled violently, and bowed his head to hide the evidences of his emotion, believed that sorrow and suffering had at last shattered his

iron nerves, and left him little strength to face the fearful end; but his two friends remembered afterwards, that before the escort had re-formed to move away, he was sitting upright in his saddle, and bearing himself like a man who had suddenly shaken off his pains and escaped his doom.

Seven roads, creeping hither and thither, over the bridges, through the fords and among the windings of seven rivers, gives its name to the wide plain that lies beyond the south-easterly angle of the Great Embankment. The place selected for Goyemon's execution was a level space within the elbow of two roads, of which the one travelled southwards along the bank of a shallow stream, and the other striking due east, formed the main avenue to the heart of the city. Here a circular area, some fifty yards in diameter, had been enclosed with a stout palisade to keep off the people, who clustered in one immense, unbroken mass, in every direction, as far as the eye could reach. On the opposite sides of this enclosure, long canopies were stretched to shelter the civic authorities and the officers of the escort, while in the middle stood a huge iron caldron, filled with oil and surrounded with faggots of charcoal. When the head of the procession reached the entrance to the enclosure, and the vanguard, opening out to the right and left, gave passage to the halberdiers and the prisoner, a breathless silence spread gradually from the innermost to the outermost circle of the countless multitude.

Goyemon, before he was taken down from his horse, asked leave to address the people. "My life as a malefactor," he said, "has no equal, nor my punishment as a criminal, any parallel. I acknowledge the justice of my fate, nor would I have it otherwise, for if not my deeds alone, certainly the addition of my unexampled death will establish for me the title of 'the King of Robbers.' But you, good people: you that win your bread by honest toil, nor grow rich by tyranny, pray for me that I may find rest hereafter, and that the memory of my torture may not trouble you in your times of solitude."

These words were spoken in a tone of such force and firmness that their import reached far into the depths of the crowd, and from the point where their accents began to fall faint, ten thousand voices took them up and carried them back to the confines of the multitude like the roll of a giant echo.

After this Goyemon was taken from his horse and placed in the caldron. The oil reached almost to his chin, but his head was kept always above the surface by an iron collar which encircled his neck, and was attached by chains to two opposite points in the rim of the caldron. The caldron itself was supported by a belt from which six massive iron legs descended, embracing below a space slightly hollowed out, to facilitate the building of the faggots. But when these faggots were lit, and men contrasted the insignificance of their smokeless glow with the mighty volume of the caldron, murmurs of remonstrance and pity broke from many a lip, for it was plain that the death, lurking in the heart of the slow fire, must travel with infinite tardiness through the viscous torpor of the oil.

How long then would the agony be deferred and what would be the first token of its approach? The summer sun, already high in the heavens, beat strongly down on the heads of the waiting multitude; a throistle sang in one of the pines that sheltered the executioners, and the tolling of a distant temple bell mingled its vibrations with the tremulous breath of the noonday heat; but for the rest, the silence was so unbroken that the rippling of the seven streams carried to the ears of the condemned man mocking visions of coolness and repose. Either by accident or design, he had been placed so as to face the entrance to the enclosure, and the people remarked that his eyes, petrified into the same changeless stare of awful anxiety, remained continually fixed on that one spot.

Was there still something on earth then, that had power to divert the miserable man's thoughts from his own terrible fate?

An hour elapsed, and as yet his face had undergone no change, except that its ashy pallor was replaced by a flush of deepening crimson. The suspense began to be unendurable, when suddenly a slight convulsion disturbed his features, and the words "Namu Amida Butsu" passed from his lips in a long sigh of suffering. Then the people, knowing that his agony was upon him, caught up the echo

of his prayer, and raised it towards the heavens in an immense pulsation of sympathy.

Almost immediately afterwards a low rumbling sound, like the muttering of distant thunder, began to issue from the caldron, and a thin wreath of smoke curled along the surface of the oil. Goyemon's eyes seemed as though they would start from their sockets, and deep groans broke from his panting lips, so that many of the spectators hid their faces and others grew pale as they looked.

But at that moment a commotion was observed among the guards at the entrance, and presently five or six halberdiers hastened in, pushing before them a woman with a child in her arms. She was a girl of frail but wonderful beauty, richly dressed after the fashion of a nobleman's wife, but her distraught air and the wild unrest of her gestures, bespoke either insanity or the delirium of suffering. Evidently unconscious of anything but the circumstances passing in her immediate neighbourhood, she was hurried into the presence of the officers presiding at the execution before she had noted the caldron or its occupant, who at the sight of Chiyo and his son, ceased to groan, nay almost to breathe, and remained perfectly motionless in the scalding oil.

She fell on her knees before the officers, and after a vain attempt to speak articulately, held up her child with a gesture of piteous appeal.

"Who is this woman?" demanded the chief officer, addressing the halberdiers.

"Isikawa Goyemon's wife, Sir," replied one of the men in a low, reluctant voice, "and the child is his son."

The officer turned and looked from one to the other of his comrades. No words were uttered, for even these strong men quailed before the terrible necessity that constrained them.

The Chief rose to his feet, and speaking so that his words were audible to those surrounding the palisade, said:—"We have no choice but to obey the Regent's orders. Soldiers, to the caldron with the woman and the child."

At this fearful verdict, a vast wail burst from the horrified people, but the woman, interpreting only the compassionate look of the officer's face, rose mechanically, and suffered the soldiers to lead her away. When however they attempted to take the child from her arms, she clutched it convulsively, and then for the first time, a mother's instinct quickening her senses, she saw her husband's distorted features, and heard the low thunder of the oil already simmering about his feet.

She gazed at him for a moment, folding her child tighter and tighter to her bosom, and then with a strange, gasping cry, fell to the ground—dead.

The soldiers, not without considerable pains, unlocked her arms, and taking the boy, carried him towards the caldron.

At their approach, Goyemon twisted and writhed with such frantic energy that the whole contents of the caldron heaved and splashed about. The men, therefore, standing at a little distance threw the child over the rim, but to the astonishment of all, Goyemon raised his arms and caught the boy above his head. Whether the oil had helped him to slip off his bonds, or whether—as some affirmed—his hands emerged half skeletons, it is certain that the unhappy man strangled his child to save it from his own sufferings, and then, with the last remnant of his strength, unhooking the collar that encircled his neck, sank with the boy into the depths of his awful grave!

(To be continued in our next.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE PRETENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

(From the 'Choya Shimbun'.)

WE HAVE indeed so-called "Councillors of State" (*Giseikwan*) but their proceedings are altogether under the control of the Privy Council (*Naikaku*) and directed merely to idle discussions of legal reforms. We have also so-called "Officers of Justice" (*Saibankwan*) but they are subservient to the Executive Council (*Giyosaikekan*) and are unable to exercise legal functions, except in a very limited degree.

Who then can say that the three principles (deliberative, executive and judicial,) are equally represented in the present constitution of Japan.

When the Deliberative Assembly and the Supreme Court were established by Imperial proclamation * (on April 14th 1875) and it was announced that the principles of representative Government would be gradually adopted, people fancied that they saw in the creation of these two bodies, not only the germ of wide judicial reforms and extension of the laws' untrammelled execution, but also an assurance that the three principles, deliberative, executive and judicial, would now be clearly defined, and given equal constitutional *status*. Verily, those who indulged in this delusion are now in a position to appreciate their error.

The constitution of our country remains a despotism, and the Privy Councillors having sole and entire authority, everything is decided at their Board, and the *Genrō-in* and *Daishinin* are in a much lower position, and indeed only the servants of the Privy Council. Where then in them can the three principles be distinguished? That the supreme rulers of the country should also be its law-makers and law-administrators has been the traditional system in despotically-governed, Oriental countries from time immemorial; and if we look back into the history of our own country, we find this has always been the case. But now that, in addition to the *Daijokwan* (Council of State) we have the *Genrō-in* to deliberate on and frame laws, and the *Daishinin* to administer them, Governing, Law-making and Law-administering would seem to have been distinguished. And this may be the reason why people imagine that the three constitutional principles, the establishment of which are their rights, are already duly secured. This is a delusion. For if, by the mere creation of the *Genrō-in* and *Daishinin*, in addition to the *Daijokwan*, the distinction was established between the Governing, Law-making, and Law-administering bodies, then the position is the same after the Proclamation of 1875 as before: because, immediately after the Restoration, the Government created the *Shiugi-in* (Law Chamber) which was afterwards abolished, and the *Sū-in* established in its place; and its duties being to frame new laws, and to revise old ones, its position must have been much the same as that of the existing *Genrō-in*. Are we to believe that the *Shiugi-in* or *Sū-in* of former times were purely law-framing assemblies, and ranking with the *Daijokwan*? Not so: law-makers ought not to be under the control of the rulers of a country, but should exercise the exclusive right of framing or abolishing laws, and the executive Government ought not to be allowed to interfere with them. But the members of the existing *Genrō-in* are only invited to debate upon subjects submitted to them for discussion by the executive Ministers, and the adoption or rejection of the measures, or the suggestions of the *Genrō-in*, lies solely with the Privy Council. Also the most important edicts are decided on, and Notifications of them issued by, the Privy Council; and though indeed, the *Genrō-in* have one opportunity afforded them of considering them, it is a matter of common report that they have no sufficient power of discussion, nor time allowed them for proper deliberation. If this is the case, the important right of Law-making being vested in the Privy council, the members of the *Genrō-in* have simply to comply with the requests of the former, and are at their orders. Although, therefore, the *Genrō-in* as at present constituted, has the appearance of a body of the high rank of Law-makers; in reality it is but a sub-section of the *Daijokwan*. How, therefore, can people say that they are equal in rank.

The relations between the Administrators of the Laws and the Executive Government is just as unsatisfactory. As the Cabinet Ministers do not actually sit in judgment on cases, there does, at first sight, appear a difference between them; but as regards rank and the principles of right,—no explanation is needed when comparing the two, for all the Judges, from the *Daishinin* downwards, may be either promoted or degraded, appointed or dismissed, simply at the will of the Cabinet Ministers. We are told that, at present,—setting aside cases brought against Government Departments,—even complaints lodged against Provincial Governors, to whose administration the people object, cannot be judged by the Judges, in accordance with the Law;—but must always be submitted to the *Daijokwan*, and its orders must be waited for. But this, not being mentioned in the Rules for conduct of business at the *Daishinin* and other courts, we are not inclined to believe. Should anything approaching to it, how-

* We reprint the Proclamation referred to:—

ever, exist in practice, we must say that, not only are the Governing and Law-Administering principles of the Constitution not of equal rank, but that as the Ministers have the power of removing the Judges, the two departments are entirely confused. And even should the reports alluded to be entirely without foundation, still such a statement as that "there being the *Genro-in* and the *Daishin-in*, as well as the *Daijokwan*, the three principles are preserved and are of equal rank in the Constitution" is an error of the greatest magnitude. In a recently published book we read that the writer plainly says:—"The distinction between the Law-framing and Governing bodies is clear." He must himself be deceived, or be deceiving us; for we say, decidedly, that our government is a pure despotism, and the actual right of making and of administering the laws is in the hands of the Cabinet Ministers, and that it is certainly an error to say that the three principles of constitutional Government are at present in existence in this country.

IMPERIAL PROCLAMATION. NOTIFICATION No. 58.

(COPY OF IMPERIAL DECREE.)

At the time of Our ascension of the Throne, when We became the Head of affairs, We summoned together the whole of Our servants, and on five several points took oath before Heaven: We determined the welfare of the country, and sought after the means whereby to ensure the peace and tranquillity of the people. By the favour of the spirits of Our ancestors, and also by the exertions of Our servants, We have happily attained the slight degree of tranquillity of the present day. But, upon consideration, We find that Our assumption of power dates from no far distant period, and that, as regards the pacification of the interior of Our country, there are by no means few matters that have to be set on foot, or freshly regulated. Wherefore, We, now extending the spirit of Our oath, do here found the *Gen-ro-in*, and thereby widen out the fountain head of the establishment of laws, and do create the *Dai-shin-in*, and thereby render firm the powers of careful judicial procedure:—We likewise call together the local officials, causing them to state the opinions of the people, plan the public welfare, and, by degrees setting on foot a well founded political fabric for Our country and homes, are desirous that each and every one of you should partake of its benefits.

Do you, then, abstain from becoming habituated to olden customs, through adhesion to former ideas; and beware, likewise, of paying little heed to your advancing steps, or of being slow to act. Give then, due attention to Our words, and use your best endeavours in regard thereto!

No. 59.

The *Sa-in* and *Yu-in* are abolished.

The *Gen-ro-in* and *Dai-shin-in* are founded.

The *Shikibu-rigo* is for the future attached to the Household Department.

The above is notified.

April 14th, 1875.

(Signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Prime Minister.

ARGUMENT TO LIMIT THE PRODUCTION OF SILK WORMS' EGGS. No. 1.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

THE question as to whether the production of Silkworms' eggs should be free or limited, is now under the serious consideration of the people and especially of the members of the Association of the Silkworm Egg business—and although I am not yet aware of the results of the discussion, as I observe that some are in favour of free production, I hereby express my own opinion thereupon and support those who are in favour of limiting the production. Some say that "the quality of the silk depends upon not only the skill of the manufacturers, but upon the quality of the worms, and that the best plan, in order to gain a good reputation for our silk and to increase our export trade, is to produce, in large quantities, good and cheap eggs. And if the system of limiting the production be adopted and 1,500,000 cards manufactured in the whole country, of which 500,000 be taken for exportation and the remainder left for the requirements of the country; then, as it is impossible to know for certain the quantity required by foreigners, if the latter want to buy more than the estimated quantity, our merchants, only seeking for the profits immediately before them and not considering the requirements of the country, will export over the estimated quantity. This would be the course they would take and it would be impossible to resist it; and thus the silk-manufacturers would sustain not a little injury therefrom, and rather than such an injury be sustained from the adoption of the system of limitation, free production had better be per-

mitted. Then, if it should happen, that the Silkworms' eggs were in excess of demand, the loss of throwing them into the water or fire is only a temporary injury and if compared with limiting the manufacture, discouraging emulation in improvement and thus degrading the quality of our silkworms' eggs, which would be the more important?" On considering the words of this disputant, it would appear that he is afraid of the fact that, as we cannot always estimate the quantity of the demand for silkworms' eggs by foreigners, should they require more than the estimate, eggs would be sold to them without regard to the requirements of the country, and thus make it difficult for the silk manufacturers to obtain good eggs. If therefore the quantity of the demand by foreigners could be known, that fear would be removed. We hear that the quantity of Japanese silkworms' eggs required by Italy and France is from 700,000 to 1,000,000 cards, from 10 to 20 per cent of which are for France and the remainder for Italy, but the French demand varies every year, not according to the quality, but to the value. In the year 1876, when more than 1,000,000 cards of eggs were imported into France, the price being high, there were but very few purchasers, only 60,000 or 70,000 cards were bought, the remainder were all used in Italy. Although the silk manufacturers of Italy are mostly poor and can only buy one or two cards each, they appreciate good eggs, and a great number of poor people in that country make the production of silk their principal employment, whereas, in France it is considered as an extra, not as a principal business.

Thus it would appear that we can manage to estimate the probable quantity of the demand of Foreigners and if so, by estimating that of the natives, to determine the quantity to be produced every year ought not be a very difficult matter, and as regards the exportation over the estimate, a distinction between the requirements of home and abroad ought to be plainly made among the traders and a system of resisting secret exportation be established and well conducted. If this is done, there would be no injury sustained by the silk manufacturers.

Again, "in case of free production being allowed, the quantity of silkworms' eggs being in excess of the demand and the extra quantity being thrown into the water or fire, it would only be a temporary injury, &c., &c., &c." This argument does not seem to be a right one. A man may become wrong in his views from the excess of his liking or disliking anything. Now this disputant being too much in favour of free production, his view of the case is not impartial. Such as throwing the silkworms' eggs, in excess, into the water or fire as being the only means to adopt, in order to resist the fall in price—and although it may be said that it does well to show foreigners the decided mind of the country dealers, I, on the contrary, fear that it would only cause them to laugh at us, because it only shows that our silk egg producers, only seeking for their own profit, not considering the future, and carelessly producing a great quantity of eggs, will have to throw into the water or fire like last year, more or less in all future years. We cannot gladly see this being done. The case of last year is sufficient to prove an example for the future, and again, if it be allowed, how much would the loss come to? Is not the disputant who does not see such an easy reason as this, one who, I may say, has become wrong in his views from liking a thing too much? (*c. i. from prejudice.*) Is it not so?

EXTRACTS.

DE BUSSCHIE v. ALT,—and the DEVONSHIRE SILKSTONE COAL COMPANY.

(From 'The Times'.)

The Court of Lincoln's Inn on Tuesday, and Vice-Chancellor MALINS's Court on Wednesday, were occupied with two extraordinary inquiries into charges against persons in a fiduciary relation. Both cases have strongly marked features, but the suit before the Appeal Court elicits precedence in picturesqueness. The plaintiff, Mr. DE BUSSCHIE, desiring to sell a ship in Japan, consigned it for sale at a *net* price of 90,000 dollars, to Messrs. GILLMAN, merchants in China and at Yokohama. The defendant, Mr. ALT, who also trades in Japan, applied to Messrs. GILLMAN for a commission to find a purchaser, and such a purchaser was in fact found in an old customer and debtor of the defendant's late Prince of GAYSHIEU. But the peculiarity of the transaction was that Mr. ALT first tried to clear himself of his character of agent, or sub-

agent, by going through the form of buying the ship for himself at 90,000 dollars, and then reselling it to the Prince for 175,000, partly in cash and partly on credit. Mr. DE BUSSCHE had no notice that Mr. ALT intended to change his relation of agent for that of purchaser, and it is obvious that when such a relation is once formed it is unreasonable that it should be rescinded at the mere will of one side, without notice to the other. The argument employed for Mr. ALT was that Mr. ALT could not be fixed with the responsibilities of an agent, for that Messrs. GILLMAN, who were Mr. DE BUSSCHE's agents, had no authority to appoint another person to undertake their duties. So futile a piece of casuistry is sufficiently disposed of by the fact that, except as agent for Mr. DE BUSSCHE, Mr. ALT could have had no possible right to deal with a vessel which was known to be his. In acquiring the right he necessarily charged himself with the correlative duties. An attempt was next made to set up by evidence a customary right in Japanese ports for an agent commissioned to sell at a *minimum* price to take the goods at this limit, and at his own option. The Lords Justices visit this alleged custom with contemptuous condemnation. A man is generally free to agree to a one-sided bargain in which some one else has all the benefit, but Courts of Justice in such cases require very clear and positive evidence that the loser knew what he was about. A custom of trade is a convenient mode of dispensing with negotiations where the arrangement is so equally advantageous for both sides that their consent to the conditions may be assumed at once; but where there is no such equality of advantage, where the agent would have the strongest motive of self-interest to exchange his character of agent for that of purchaser without notice to his principal, Courts of Justice cannot in reason assume the assent of the principal without positive proof, and, therefore, cannot sanction the custom. The solitary possibility of persuading the Court that one who had obtained possession of property as an agent could make a profit of cent. per cent. out of it for himself was afforded by the machinery Mr. ALT employed to make the Prince of GAYSHIEU pay. It might be plausibly urged that a mission on board a man-of-war to recover the purchase money could scarcely be held to come within the ordinary duty of an agent even in Japan. But this ground was cut from under Mr. ALT's feet by the fact that he did all this on his own responsibility, and without any notice to Mr. DE BUSSCHE. If Mr. DE BUSSCHE had been consulted, he might, perhaps, have preferred to accept Mr. ALT as purchaser instead of so formidable a debtor as the Prince of GAYSHIEU. As he was never given the option, he had a clear title to all the benefit accruing from his agent's exceptional energy. The Lords Justices, as did Vice-Chancellor HALL in the Court, below, have now affirmed his right.

The case before Vice-Chancellor MALINS has nothing to do with Japanese Princes or United States war steamers employed to levy a distress; but after its own modest and domestic fashion it is even more instructive. We have not all of us ships to sell to feudal nobles in Asia, but a good many of us have had relations with companies in liquidation. The Devonshire Silkstone Coal Company was wound up voluntarily in 1871, and a Mr. COWARD and a Mr. LORD were appointed liquidators with another gentleman, who has since died. They were instructed by the shareholders to sell the mine, and the sum of £21,000 was fixed as a price which might be expected. The anticipation was not unreasonable, as, according to the VICE-CHANCELLOR, "between £30,000 and £40,000 had been expended on the colliery, besides "which there were waggons worth £5,000, and there had also "been a dead rent paid in advance to the amount of £4,000 or "£5,000 more." In the end the liquidators accepted an offer by the brother to the company's secretary of £8,000. The approval of the VICE-CHANCELLOR's Chief Clerk was obtained for this curious transaction on the plea that no better terms could be made, and that the old shareholders were to be permitted to take shares in a new company which the purchaser was to form. But the VICE-CHANCELLOR says that, in fact, no such option was ever fairly given them; only five days were allowed within which they were to apply for shares, and some shareholders did not even receive the notice till the last day of the five. Mr. COWARD and Mr. LORD would seem to have been the only shareholders who had the prudence and promptness to avail themselves of this very peremptory offer. They took shares in the purchaser's company, and they have found the advantage. Within the first year after the sale the purchaser and his fellow-shareholders realized a profit of £20,000. The next year showed their wisdom yet more clearly; their profit for the twelve months was 255 per cent. on the purchase money. But Vice-Chancellor MALINS, instead of applauding the loyal faith these two gentlemen, the Liquidators, showed in their old company's inherent solvency by accepting shares in a concern which they had sold for £8,000 when nearly £40,000

had been spent upon it, has removed them, even at this late day, from their office, in sign that "persons taking upon them "selves the duties of liquidators must act with faith and honour." The punishment, the VICE-CHANCELLOR himself admits, is not very substantial; it is a good deal less to the point than the Lords Justices' transfer to Mr. DE BUSSCHE of the 85,000 dollars bonus the United States war-ship was instrumental in extracting from the Japanese Prince for Mr. ALT. But we need not be at the pains to appraise the exact worth of the credit the VICE-CHANCELLOR adjudges Messrs. COWARD and LORD to have lost. Certainly what they have lost in this way their old brother shareholders will not gain. We may hope, however, some means may yet be found of making their energetic sagacity in securing shares in the new and lucrative company redound to the material advantage of their old and ruined company, and of its shareholders, whose trustees they have been.

The worst feature in cases like these is that they are not cases of ordinary criminal fraud. Breaches of trust will be committed, and in high places in the commercial world, just as pockets will be picked under cover of patriotic enthusiasm in Hyde Park. When a merchant or banker violates the criminal law he is very properly treated like a pickpocket. But public morality is vindicated rather than scandalized by the offender's degradation. Cases such as these of "DE BUSSCHE v. ALT," "the Devonshire Silkstone Company," and the Manchester Warehousemen's case last year are much more alarming than crimes such as those of LIZARDI and Sir JOHN DEAN PAUL. The two cases in the Chancery Division are but striking instances of a vicious practice in trade of doing one thing under guise of doing another. Mr. ALT set up a custom of European merchants in Japanese ports by which they claim freedom to throw off the character of agents whenever they think it profitable to themselves. They are acting for the owner of property when it will fetch no more than the *minimum* price; they are acting for themselves when they can get something beyond that price. Lord Justice THESIGER even had to admit that evidence of the existence of such a custom had been produced. Yet it is obvious that its direct effect must be to sap the very foundation of the good faith on which the relation of principal and agent rests. A principal's chance of profiting by the ability and activity of his agent is but slender when the agent, if he finds that by ability and activity he may make a better bargain, is free to buy at the lowest and sell at the highest. There is the comfort that a practice so immoral is "scotched" the moment it comes within reach of an English Court of Justice. But not even that consolation is available in the Devonshire Colliery case. Two official liquidators are branded by a Court of Equity as having been false to their trust; yet no intimation is given by the Court that the injured shareholders are entitled to restitution at their hands. But even if, as we hope, in all flagrant cases of violation of duty by trustees a civil remedy be available, the cases are comparatively few in which it is either worth while or possible to extort pecuniary restitution from the offender. No class is victimized so greatly as the commercial class itself by these vicious customs and practices, by which agents abstract profits which belong of right to their principals. A duty is incumbent on the chiefs of commerce to set themselves to turning back the current of commercial opinion, which has lately been running stronger and stronger in favour of making out of every commercial transaction a profit which is supposed to compensate the work actually done. The main use of judicial decisions against the lawfulness of such secret profits is not that peculiar offenders are made to refund, but that they encourage the growth of a healthier custom of trade. But Courts of Justice cannot regenerate trade; that must regenerate itself. The correspondence we have published at various periods on the fashion by which architects, solicitors, and bankers extort bonuses and commissions from auctioneers, builders, stockbrokers, and all kinds of denominations of business men, on the simple ground that they have selected them for work they do not pretend to be able to do themselves, has shown how worm-eaten English trade is by a system which is nothing else than a civilized form of *Comorra*. In answer the other night to the question by Mr. BURR whether it was intended to legislate against frauds by fiduciary agents, including the practice of taking commissions, Mr. CROSS stated that he had decided to introduce a Bill on the subject. As we think about the real value of condemnations by the Court of Chancery of illegal profits by agents, so we think about changes in the criminal law respecting the relations of principal and agent. We hope more from the indirect than from the direct efficacy of legislation. Laws on this subject can be evaded; but they are useful auxiliaries to the many who dislike a most mischievous custom, but have not the moral courage to resist it.

TERRIFIC TORNADO AT CANTON.

[This has been duly reported in our daily papers but it is too important an event not to be put on record by ourselves. We are indebted to the *Hongkong Daily Press* for the following.]

FEARFUL DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND LOSS OF LIFE

ON Thursday afternoon, the 11th April, Canton, Fatshan, and the neighbouring district were visited by a tornado, which in the course of a few minutes laid nearly two thousand houses in ruins, wrecked more than a thousand boats, and caused a loss of life estimated at nearly ten thousand. No Europeans were among the killed. The foreign settlement of Shameen at Canton was caught in the storm, and more than half the houses were unroofed or otherwise damaged, while one-third of the trees were torn up. The granite bridge over the Canal was cleared of its balustrades, the granite seats on the Bund overturned, lamp posts twisted, and every object in the track of the destroyer swept before it. The destruction was strictly confined to the narrow line which marked the course of the tornado, buildings a yard or so outside remaining uninjured. To add to the general confusion and destruction, four different fires broke out in the Western Suburb of Canton simultaneously with the visit of the storm, by which two or three hundred houses were laid in ashes. The excitement caused by this sudden and unprecedented calamity was tremendous. The work of recovering the bodies and clearing away the ruins is still proceeding, thousands having been buried in the ruins of their homes. The loss of property cannot be estimated at present. Below we give full particulars of the disaster:—

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, Friday Morning, 12th April.

Yesterday afternoon one of the most sudden and alarming disasters that has ever visited this port overtook it. During the forenoon thunder and lightning, the latter of a most vivid description, were experienced, and about two o'clock, it commenced to rain. Between three and four o'clock the sky became intensely black, and hail began to fall, some of the stones being as large as walnuts. An exceedingly high wind came from the South-west, and when opposite Shameen and over Honam it reached the force of a hurricane, which broke the windows and tore off the roofs of several houses in the settlement. Shortly afterwards, a large waterspout was seen coming from a Southerly direction, working its way up the river in a zig-zag fashion, up-turning sampans and other craft, passing over Honam, where it destroyed matted sheds and damaged houses, then turning off to Shameen, where it uprooted trees, damaged the canal bridge considerably, wrecked many and injured nearly all the houses in the settlement. Finally the waterspout broke over the city, wherein great quantities of guns and crackers were fired for the purpose of dispersing it. After the hurricane and waterspout, which lasted only about ten minutes altogether, the scene on Shameen was most deplorable. The little settlement was strewn from end to end with debris of all sorts, most of the houses being unroofed, the trim gardens laid desolate, and the trees being torn down or robbed of their branches. Looking from the settlement on the river, piles of wreckage were to be seen floating, with numerous dead bodies, and from the West a lurid glare caused by a great fire was visible. Half of the houses in Shameen have been rendered uninhabitable, and nearly all have sustained some damage. Messrs. Siemssen's and Messrs. Postau's silk godowns have been completely demolished, and Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg's godown has shared a similar fate. The residences of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Wm. Postau & Co., Thomas and Mercer, Gepp and Co., Arnhold, Karberg & Co., and Deacon & Co. have suffered the most, I believe, but others have been damaged to some extent.

In Canal-road great numbers of the houses were blown down, and some of the inmates buried in the ruins. This morning on clearing away the ruins of the house of Tung Cheong, the tailor, the bodies of that well known tradesman and one of his assistants were discovered. The Canal was filled with wreckage, amongst which dead bodies were to be seen in considerable numbers. Inside the city and suburbs almost incalculable damage was done. The natives were in a state of the wildest terror and confusion, and to add to the uproar four different fires broke out in the Western Suburb at about a quarter to four o'clock. How these originated is not known, but it is suspected, and not without good reason, that they were the work of incendiaries, with intent to pillage. At all events, bands of robbers sallied forth to take advantage of the confusion caused by the hurricane and the fires. Efforts were made to stop the course of the fires, but they raged almost unchecked and were not extinguished until this morning, and I fear that several hundred houses were burned to the ground, and large areas are covered with nothing but blackened ruins. Numerous robberies were committed by the scoundrels who

swarmed on the scene. Hundreds of families have been rendered homeless by fire and storm, and great numbers reduced to destitution.

The number of shops and houses damaged or wrecked in the city by the storm is not known, but I am informed by Chinese that upwards of two thousand buildings have sustained more or less injury. The loss of life is variously estimated at from two hundred to five thousand, but I believe that the lower figure is nearest the mark. At present it is impossible to give a good guess, but in any case both the mortality and the destruction to property have been most serious. The suddenness of the disaster of course contributed to the fatal nature of its effect. A good many persons were burned to death in the great fires in the Western Suburb.

I hear that the storm has also wrought similar havoc at Fatshan, but as yet no details have been received.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, Saturday Morning.

Since writing yesterday I have been able to gather some further particulars of this unprecedented calamity which has overtaken the City of Rams and the district surrounding it. The loss of life would appear to be very much greater than I first imagined, and it is still very difficult to form a fair estimate, but many hundreds of dead bodies have been recovered from the Canal, the wrecks in the river, and from underneath the ruins in the City. Most of those who were killed met their death through the infliction of a sudden blow by falling timbers, flying bricks, or being upset in boats. Many, as I told you before, fell victims to the great fires in the Western Suburb. Another fire, I must tell you, broke out yesterday morning in Tsoi Lan-street, in the Suburb, and was not extinguished until more than ten houses had been burned down.

I have some particulars to add to the list of damages done in the settlement of Shameen. The German Consulate has suffered considerably, and the British Consulate has not quite escaped. The fine banyan trees, the pride and glory of Shameen, beneath whose pleasant shade the residents were wont to take their constitutional, are sadly thinned, and damage has been done which cannot be repaired in ten years, many of the uprooted trees boasting nearly double that age. Some large trees were carried by the tornado a distance of thirty or forty yards. The granite seats along the Bund have been displaced, but that is a loss easily repairable, as is the destruction of most of the lamps by which the settlement is, or rather was, lighted. The houses and godowns which have been laid in whole or partial ruin will furnish employment for the builders for months, and it will be a long time indeed before the once pretty little Island of Shameen resumes the semblance of its former appearance.

Though the foreign residents escaped without any loss of life or serious accident, there were some few fatalities in Shameen. In the godown belonging to Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. some coolies were engaged in unpacking goods when the tornado laid the building in ruins over their heads. When extricated only two out of seven or eight were found alive, and one of these survivors died shortly afterwards. There may be some further casualties, but I have not heard of more.

In the Canal more than a hundred dead bodies have been found, and the sights are really sickening. It appears that about twenty streets of houses have been completely swept away, besides a number that were pulled down to stop the course of the great fires which broke out soon after the storm. In reference to those I may mention that they occurred, the first in Sun Tin Ti, the second at Saw I-street, the third at Ha Chun Tong, and the fourth in Hung Yan-lane, all in the Western suburb. None of them were finally extinguished until five o'clock yesterday morning, and this was partly due to the fact that many of the thoroughfares were obstructed by the houses that had fallen. About a score of the robbers who had gathered together to loot the houses were captured and handed over to the authorities, but the majority escaped with their plunder. The Viceroy, in response to a request to that effect from the British Consul, sent a hundred soldiers to protect Shameen, a fact I forgot in my hurry to mention before. His Excellency deserves praise for the promptitude with which he cared for the property and safety of foreigners, and the fact serves to show the contrast to the relations existing between foreigners and the native officials now and thirty-five years ago. But to return to my account of the havoc effected in the city, it is said that about fifteen hundred houses have been destroyed and upwards of a thousand boats wrecked. Some of my native friends compute the loss of life ashore and about at more than ten thousand, but I sincerely hope that this is an exaggeration. There seems no doubt, however, that the dead are to be numbered by the thousand, instead of the hundred, as was at first supposed.

The scene along the track of the tornado is sad and dishearten-

ing. The destruction has proved most complete along its direct line; elsewhere, of course, it is partial. The violence of the wind for the few minutes it lasted was as great as that of the severest typhoon. Granite blocks were lifted from their places and hurled a considerable distance, thick trees snapped in twain like twigs, roofs were lifted bodily, and boats carried far on to the shore. In one case a small boat was actually blown on to the roof of a house in the Tenth Ward.

A row of houses, all brothels but one, forming one side of a short lane in the City, were the scene of one notable catastrophe. The other side of the lane is formed by the sidewall of the Mun Cheong Temple, which is some thirty feet high. This wall gave way to the force of the tornado and fell crashing in upon the opposite houses, the inmates of which, about one hundred in number, were all killed, most of them being crushed to death, and the remainder suffocated. There were no means of exit at the back, and no one attempted to dig the bodies out of the ruins.

Inside the City a dreary spectacle is to be met in the shape of troops of homeless people wandering in a dejected fashion up and down the streets craving charity; while here and there were to be seen groups of injured persons lying down groaning in their pain. On the shore there has been much weeping and wailing, parents bemoaning their lost little ones, children crying piteously for their dead parents. The narrow creek is still partially choked up with debris consisting of broken boats and other wreckage, in which are numbers of dead bodies. In too many instances whole families have been crushed to death in one boat. The supply of coffins is nearly exhausted, and the undertakers are now, I am told, charging double price.

The villages of Pah Hin Hock and Pah Hock Tang, two or three miles to the north outside the walls, were caught in the storm and suffered great damage, many dwelling-houses and other buildings being destroyed and numbers of lives lost. The village across the water opposite to Shameen came in for its share of the disaster also, being partially destroyed.

I hear that, though the whirlwind did not effect so much damage at Fatahan as in this port, it has made severe havoc. It is stated by Chinese who have come from there that not less than two hundred houses have been laid prostrate, while about half the boats in the river there have been wrecked. The loss of life is put down at several hundred. A passage boat coming from Fatahan to this city was, when a short distance off, caught in the tornado and instantly capsized. About seventy of the passengers were drowned.

The Chinese account of the origin of these tornados or whirlwinds is curious though absurd. I will give it as explained to me by a native, but cannot be responsible for any errors in this dragonian story.

A pond on the top of a mountain at Sun Ui, a distance of some eighty miles from Canton, is said to be the haunt of a dragon with a stunted tail, who is popularly supposed to ride upon the clouds and to rule the whirlwind. Once upon the time, more than a hundred years ago, a school-boy named A Tseung, at Sun Ui, when rambling on the hill side, picked up an egg which he took back to school and kept. After a few days a creature resembling a serpent came out of the egg. The lad kept this creature in his drawer at school for some months until one day the schoolmaster noticed it and ordered him to take it away. He accordingly conveyed the serpent (now several feet long) to the mountain and put it in a secluded hole, where he often visited and fed it. Sometimes when the boy could not go to see his strange pet, it came to the school to see him, but the other boys were frightened of it, and told their schoolfellow not to let it come any more. The creature, now grown into a monster, was then kept away by his young patron, who began to neglect visiting it. Several months elapsed and the boy's mother fell sick, and it was said that she could not be cured unless some serpent's liver could be obtained. The boy remembered the serpent, went to see him, and asked the creature to allow him to enter its stomach and cut some of its liver. The serpent distended its jaws and let the boy crawl in and take a piece of its liver, which he took home, and, after boiling, administered to his mother, who immediately derived much benefit from the dose. She persuaded her son to go and try for some more, and the compliant serpent again allowed him to enter its mouth, but this time the boy cut too much and the monster was compelled to shut its mouth and swallow the boy. For having eaten a man, the God of Heaven decreed the serpent could not ascend to heaven. Accordingly the serpent, enraged at being shut out of heaven, comes out every two or three years to disturb the people of the world. The inhabitants of the villages near Sun Ui are afraid to go near the mountain reputed to be the serpent's haunt.

So runs the legend, and it is very much on a par with those

nursery tales which delighted us in childhood, such as Jack in the Beanstalk, &c. The only real marvel about it is that there are people silly enough to believe in such a transparent fable.

I may as well give you a rough translation of a printed sheet which was being widely sold in the streets of Fatahan yesterday. At the top are two rough engravings representing a steamer and a huge dragon. It is as follows:—"This paper has to relate an event which has happened in Canton, the veracity of which cannot be called in question. Suddenly in a moment of time the air became black like inky clouds. This was seen by some Foreign Devils on a steamer. They brought out a thousand-mile glass which can make distant objects perfectly distinct. Through this instrument they witnessed this strange object in the heavens. Directly they saw it, they pronounced it as a being, at once supernatural and terrible. Its head was like the head of a lion, but without horns [the provincial idea is that lions have horns]. Its body had scales and a huge tail like that of a fish. Its legs were over three yards in length and its feet had talons bright like silver. This monster rode away in terrible majesty towards the north-west across Shameen and the Western Suburbs." This they declare was seen by these said "Foreign Devils."

Then follows a description of the desolation wrought by this interesting looking animal, which I need not translate.

THE VOICE OF GRIEF.

O rugged, toilsome path of thorns and briers,
Of weary, bleeding feet—
Peopled with shadows of unrequited desires,
And pleasures incomplete!
Land of unchanging sorrow for the dead
And bitterness of life,
Where noble lives by cruel hands are shed,
To win the field of strife;
Where Pain eternal, like the Alpine snows,
Crowned above men and kings,
Broods dark as night, and from her bosom throws
Her arrows and her stings!
Shall the sweet breath of Summer sweep the earth,
And make it smile with flowers,
Yet leave to man the pestilential dearth
Of ever-withering powers?
Behold how Sorrow, wandering through the world,
Weeps passionate tears of blood,
And Charity upon the stones is hurled,
Crying aloud for good!
The voice of grief pierces the Silent Land,
Where victory is won—
Is there no haven past Time's dangerous strand,
No joy beyond the sun?

THE JAPAN TIMES, A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

Price Twenty-four Dollars Per Annum.

CONTENTS OF No. 18. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. MAY 4TH, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

Treaty Revision. The Japanese Yen. II. Fore-shore Reclamation. II. The Internal loan. De Bussche v. Alt :—a Protest.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

The Uji. By G. A. Greeven.

EDITORIAL NOTES.—NOTES AND QUERIES.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO: From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY Capt. R.A. Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 18 The Caldron of Oil.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Pretence of Constitutional Government. The Silkworm Egg Question.

EXTRACTS.

De Bussche v. Alt, &c. The Tornado at Hongkong. The Wreck of the *Meikong*.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 17. APRIL 27, 1878.

Are our Telegrams Safe? Foreshore Reclamation. Kobe Economists. Proceedings of the Silk Egg Guild.
Papers of the German Asiatic Society. On Earthquakes. By Dr. Edmund Naumann: Continuation. The Great Earthquake in Shinshu in 1847.
Editorial Notes. Notes of the Week. Notes and Queries.
The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 17.
The American President's Veto. Sir Richard Temple and the Parsees.
Mail Steamer Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. Advertisements.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

MILES.	STATIONS.	DOWN TRAINS.												FARES.		
		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st Cls.	2nd Cls.	3rd Cls.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	—	—	—
3½	Shinagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
6	Omori.....	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	— 40	— 20	— 10
10½	Kawasaki.....	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	— 55	— 30	— 15
12½	Tsurumi.....	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	— 70	— 40	— 20
16½	Kanagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Yokohama.....	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	1 00	— 60	— 30

UP TRAINS.

—	STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen sen	yen sen	yen sen
		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen sen	yen sen	yen sen
—	Yokohama.....	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	—	—	—
1½	Kanagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
5½	Tsurumi.....	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	— 40	— 20	— 10
7½	Kawasaki.....	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	— 55	— 30	— 15
12	Omori.....	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	— 70	— 40	— 20
14½	Shinagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	1 00	— 60	— 30

STATEMENT OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

	Passengers &c.	Goods &c.	Total.
TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION. (Miles open 18) for week ended April 30th 1878...	\$ 8,295.98	\$ 813.34	\$ 9,109.32
for corresponding period last year.	6,832.60	601.24	7,433.84
Increase.....			\$ 1,665.48
KIOTO—KOBE SECTION. (Miles open 47½) for week ended April 21st 1878	\$13,175.525	\$1,136.587	\$14,312.112
for corresponding period last year			\$10,123.603
Increase.....			\$ 3,188.499

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd, 1878.

IMPORTS:—The native paper currency is gradually approaching par, as the tea and silk seasons draw nearer, being as we write quoted at but a trifle over 5 *per cent* discount, a very material improvement from the 10 to 12 *per cent* at which it ruled for so many weeks. But the anticipated deliveries of yarns sold to arrive are not taking place, nor do we anticipate that they will, until dealers are put in funds by the sale of native produce. Meanwhile stocks are large, being estimated at fully 12,000 bales, with a good deal more on the water, and weak holders may be compelled to give way, to the general detriment of the market. A drooping tendency is already apparent, in fact, as will be seen by comparison of our present with our last quotations. On no other staples have we any special remark to make; except to note the sale of 22,000 cases of kerosine oil at \$2.75 which appears to have slightly depressed the market.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** During the past week very little business in Silk has been transacted and total sales do not exceed 150 shipping bales.

The uncertainty regarding the position of politics in Europe is no doubt the main cause of the stagnation, but in addition it must not be forgotten that owing to the very mixed and diminished stocks on the market, large business would in any case be almost impossible.

Quotations are as follow, but must be considered to a great extent nominal. Total shipments to date 21,014 Bales against 20,364 Bales at the same period last season. Our readers must not fail to note here that, in consequence of many shippers having been making up larger bales, these figures do not show the total increase of our production.

TEA:—We are enabled by this opportunity to report the opening of the Season 1878-79, as during the past week, liberal supplies of New Crop have come in and a considerable amount of business has been transacted.

Settlements of New Crop to date amount to pels. 1750, at prices opening from \$46 to \$57 per pel., but within the last two days, there has been a rapid decline and parcels of fair quality have been bought as low as \$28 per pel.

The P. M. S. S. *China* will take about 3,600 halfchests New Crop and the next steamer the *Oceanic* will probably secure a full cargo.

Prices are difficult to fix, but our quotations on next page will be found about correct.

EXCHANGE:—There no change to notice in sterling rates. A fair business has been done in Bank paper, but only moderate transactions in Private. On Hongkong and Shanghai very little has been done during the week.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d. sight, 3s. 11d. Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 5 00. sight 4 90. Documents, 6 months' sight 5 05. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 73. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 1½ o/o discount. Private, 10 days' sight 1½ o/o discount. San Francisco Bank sight 95. New York Bank, sight 95. **BULLION.** Gold Yen 391, Kinsatsu 422.

QUOTATIONS OF ARTICLES OF IMPORT AND EXPORT.

IMPORTS.	Prices.	Reported Sales.	REMARKS.		
Cotton Yarn—					
Nos. 16 to 24 per picul	\$30.00 to 31.50	647 Bales	Business very dull and prices tending downwards.		
ditto Reverse "	33.00 to —				
28 to 32 "	31.00 to 32.75				
38 to 42 "	36.00 to 37.00				
(Bombay) No. 20 "	28.00 to 28.50				
" No. 18 "	nominal				
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	nominal	2,050 pieces	Little doing.		
" " 8.4... .. "	1.85 to 2.25	7,850 "	Do.		
" " 9 lbs., 45 in. "	2.00 to 2.35	5,900 "	Do.		
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. "	nominal		Small sales.		
" 7.0 lbs. "	1.45 to 1.47½				
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. "	nominal		Limited.		
Wh. Shtgs. 60 to 64 reed 40 yds. 35 in. "	3.37½ to 4.00				
Indigo Shirtings 12 yds by 44 in. "	nominal		More doing at lower rates.		
Turkey Red Cambrics 2½ to 2½ lbs. "	1.70 to —	520 "			
" 3.0 lbs. "	nominal		No sales reported.		
Black Velvets "	6.60 to 7.00	100 "			
Taffachelass (single warp) "	nominal		400 "		
" (double warp) "	"				
Chintzes (assorted) "	"		0.81 to —		
Victoria Lawns "	nominal				
Cotton Italians (col'd) per yard	nominal		0.24 to 0.27		
" " (blk.) "	0.24 to 0.27	3,650 "			
Woollens and Worsteds—					
Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards per piece	5.50 to 0.17½		3,800 "		
Mousselines de Laine 24 to 30 yds. by 31 in. "	0.17½ to 0.17½				
Plain per yard	0.20 to 0.20½		150 "		
Striped "	4.50 to 4.75				
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	1.20 to 1.80		Very dull.		
Cloth (Woollen) per yard	0.65 to 1.00				
" Union (54 in.) "	0.40 to 0.41½	100 pairs	0.37½ to —		
Blankets 6 lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lb. "	0.37½ to —				
" 7 " to 8 " "	"				
Metals, &c.—					
Iron, Nail Rod—large per picul	2.40 to 2.80		Small sales—at quotations.		
" " small "	3.00 to 3.20				
" Bars, flat and round "	2.60 to 3.25		No transactions.		
" Pig "	1.50 to 1.80				
Lead "	7.00 to 7.20		Nominal—Stock increasing.		
Tin Plates "	5.60 to 6.00				
Window Glass per box	2.90 to 3.10		Do.		
Kerosine Oil per case	2.65 to 2.75				
Quicksilver "	63.00 to —		Sales of 22,000 cases at quotations—but the Market closes weak.		
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 to —				
" Welsh "	11.50 to 12.00		No demand—Stock 2,500 bales.		
" Australian... .. "	9.00 to 9.50				
China and Straits Produce—					
Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.50 to 15.75		In good demand—Holders firm.		
Formosa Sugar, Takao "	5.25 to 5.30				
" " Taiwan "	5.10 to 5.35		nominal		
" " White "	nominal				
Saigon Rice "	"				
EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2 per pel.	\$550 to 570 per pel.	19s. 9d. to 20s. 6d.	54.80 fr. to 56.65 fr.	150 Ship- ing Bales.	1,200 native bales
" No. 2 "	510 to 530 "	18s. 6d. to 19s. 0d.	51.10 fr. to 53.00 fr.		
" No. 2½ (good medium) "	480 to 500 "	17s. 6d. to 18s. 0d.	48.30 fr. to 50.15 fr.		
" No. 3 (medium) "	460 to 470 "	16s. 9d. to 17s. 0d.	46.45 fr. to 47.40 fr.		
" Inferior "	430 to 450 "	15s. 9d. to 16s. 6d.	43.65 fr. to 45.50 fr.		
Oshio No. 1 and 2 "	500 to 520 "	18s. 0d. to 18s. 9d.	50.15 fr. to 52.00 fr.	1,750 pels.	
" No. 1, 2 and 3 "	480 to 490 "	17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d.	48.30 fr. to 49.25 fr.		
Hamaski No. 1, 2 and 3 "	450 to 470 "	16s. 6d. to 17s. 0d.	45.50 fr. to 47.40 fr.		
Tea:—					
Common per pel.	— to — "	These quotations, however, are not likely to be maintained after the departure of the steamer.			
Good Common... .. "	— to — "				
Medium "	— to — "				
Good Medium "	— to — "				
Fine and full fine "	28.00 to 31.00 "				
Finest "	32.00 to 38.00 "	Nothing doing.			
Choice "	40.00 to 45.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu per pel.	12.00 "				
" Various "	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax "	13.50 "				
Coal, Takashima "	9.00 to 10.50 "				
" Karatz "	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common "	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice "	2.25 to 2.40 "				
Sulphur (common)... .. "	2.60 to 2.80 "				

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 27	" 31	" 79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	" 79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	" 79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 18
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 22
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 19	" 25	" 12
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 21	Feb. 19

•• The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

•• No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

•• Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

•• Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 1	May 9		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 7	May 15	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 29	" 14		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 8	July 1	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 22	" 8		M. M. Co.'s -	London	May 15	July 8	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	April 20	" 11		P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 4		
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco				O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 19		

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
Apr. 29	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	Put back			
" 30	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	Apr. 23	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 30	Ching Too	Baikie	Brit. schr.	307	Takao		Sugar	Chinese.
" 30	August	Reis	Ger. brig	208	Hamburg	Oct. 16	General	Simon, Evers & Co.
" 30	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Shanghai & ports	Apr. 21	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
May 1	China	Berry	Am. str.	3,836	Hongkong	" 23	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 2	Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Jap str.	1,870	Shanghai & ports	" 21	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 2	Boyan	Boyle	Russ. flag-ship	2,000	Cruise			

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—Miss Dare, Mr. J. T. Cohan, &c., Mr. Wo Ah Chee in cabin; and 19 Chinese and 1 Japanese in steerage.

Per Am. str. *China* from Hongkong:—Mrs. Marques, 5 children, and 2 servants, in cabin; and 1 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco:—Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Partridge, and 2 children, Messrs. Frank Bowden, J. A. Kraanoplaky, and J. Speechly, in cabin; and 4 European and 429 Chinese in steerage.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Lady Parkes, 2 Miss Parkes, and nurse, Mrs. Hepburn, Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Remedios, Mrs. Mayet, Mrs. R. Jones, Miss Thurston, Honourable W. C. Maxwell, Messrs. Dower, Razario, Montgomery, Grant, Loder, Bair, Pollock, Cuthbertson, Hart, McGrigor, Hughes, Joyner, Warren, Maundrill, Coles, Evington, Kostler, and 14 Japanese in cabin; and 8 Europeans, 217 Japanese, and 9 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Messrs. W. Bost, and W. B. Shaw in cabin.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Lader," Sept. 25; S.S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; S.S. "Madras," Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Hase," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulhakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM TABLE BAY:—"Fair Leader," Jan. 19.

FROM ANJER:—"Fair Leader," Mar. 29.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," S.S. "Madras," "Bon Accord," S.S. "Egean," S.S. "Imbat."

At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. May 14th; Hongkong M. M. str. May 8th; America O. & O. str. May 11th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. May 14th.

CARGO:—Per Brit. str. *Malacca* from Hongkong:—General Merchandize, 9,169 packages.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$228,700.00.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
Apr. 27	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 27	Sumida Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	Apr. 29	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 30	Takachibo Maru	Sikemeir	Jap. str.	1,407	Hakodate	May 4	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
May 1	Tanais	De la Marcello	Frch. str.	1,735	Hongkong	" 7	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 1	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Shanghai & ports	" 9	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 1	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,200	Hakodate & Niigata		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Dr. Vidal, J. Fernandez, Don Jose Roxas, and Dr. John Burke.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Kuster and 2 children, Madame Laplace, Dr. and Mrs. Langgard, Mr. and Mrs. Tyaki, Mr. and Mrs. Kawamura and child, The Right Revd. Bishop Osouf, Revd. C. E. Patriat, Mrs. Ono, Mr. and Mrs. Kinashi, Messrs. T. Canham, &c., G. Stanton, J. Nandin, P. Gutchow, Hashiguchi, Honda, Manaki and son, Nakawa, Asakawa, Fujii, Matsunoto, Ywahashi, and Paul Roulez.

LOADING:—*Malacca*, for Hongkong and Europe, May 7th.—P. & O. Co.

City of Peking, for Hongkong, May 7th.—P. M. Co.

Hiroshima Maru, for Shanghai and ports, May 7th.—M. B. M. Co.

Johann Wickhorst, for London, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffel & Co.

Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

China, for San Francisco, May 4th.—P. M. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, for Hakodate, May 4th.—M. B. M. Co.

Christine, for Hakodate, Quick despatch.—P. Bohm.

Oceanic, for San Francisco.—May 19th O. & O. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. May 8th: for Hongkong M. M. str. May 15th: for America P. M. str. May 4th: O. & O. str. May 19th: for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. May 7th: for Hakodate M. B. M. str. May 4th,

CARGO:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Silk for France, 103 bales; Silk for London, 18 bales; Waste Silk, 71 bales; Treasure for Singapore, \$4,000.00; Treasure for London, \$20,000.00.

Per Jap. str. *Nagoya-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$5,100.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
China	Berry	American steamer	2,886	Hongkong	May 1	P. & O. Co.	
City of Peking	Tanner	American steamer	5,079	Put back	April 20	P. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Gaelic	Kidley	British steamer	2,756	Hongkong	April 29	O. & O. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdia	Japanese steamer	1,870	Sha'hai & p'rts	May 2	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong	April 30	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Mar. 28	Lighthouse Department	
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,146	Sha'hai & ports	April 30	M. B. M. Co.	Kobe.
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	April 25	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,300	Hiogo	Mar. 30	M. B. M. Co.	
SAILING SHIP.							
August	Reis	German brig	208	Hamburg	April 30	Simon, Evers & Co.	
Ching Too	Baikie	British schooner	307	Takao	April 30	Chinese	
Coldingham	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Glengaber	Gray	British barque	658	Antwerp		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Henry A. Litchfield	Drummond	American barque	638	N'wcale n.s.w.	April 2	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johan Irgens	Mortensen	N'wregian barque	775	N'wcale n.s.w.	April 15	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	H'mb'g v'a K'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffier & Co.	London.
John Potts	McPherson	British barque	373	Takao	April 7	Jardine Matheson & Co.	
Laira	Trevina	British barque	498	London	April 18	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newcastle n.s.w.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Mount Washington	Perkins	American ship	1,217	Batavia	Mar. 30	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboyina	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Oceanic	Afleck	British barque	320	Takao	April 18	Netherlands Trading Co.	
Omha	Hall	British ship	836	Shanghai	April 2	Cornes & Co.	For fr'ght. orch'ter.
Sumner E. Mead	Dixon	American ship	1,117	New York	April 5	C. & J. Trading Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Juno ...	8 ...	2,216 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel ...	4 ...	462 ...	Gun vessel ...	Captain Theobald.
GERMAN—Angusta ...	12 ...	1,900 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Hessemppflug.
FRENCH—Cosmao ...	12 ...	1,900 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Dumas Vence.
JAPANESE—Kongo ...	9 ...	1,800 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Webb, E. N.
RUSSIAN—Boyan ...	8 ...	2,000 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Boyle.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$1,000,000.

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Deputy Chairman—WM. H. FORBES, Esq.

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Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpots, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID MCLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila, Singapore.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Malata.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

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MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class	12 Months.....1½	Per Cent
" " "	6 "	1 " "
" " "	3 "	3 " "
" " "	1 "	3 " "
" " "	10 days	3-16 " "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,		
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.
Second " "	3 " "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,		
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.
Second " "	2 " "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,

Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE**
INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawing every month
June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two
drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " 250 "
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Postage Extra.

Positively not accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

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No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING
SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

Parents wishful to place children under her charge at the Pension Dogny, may address their enquiries as to terms &c. to the Editor of the *Japan Times*, who is empowered to furnish them.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. NO. 19.]

May 11, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

FIRE INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

THE German Asiatic Society is doing most useful work.

We have just published large excerpts from Dr. Naumann's interesting paper on Earthquakes; Herr Greeven, last week, gave us a most valuable one on that dangerous enemy to the silkworm, the Uji, and we are now able to give to the public the first part of an equally important essay by Dr. Mayet. The subject chosen by the learned author is a scheme for an obligatory insurance on buildings in Japan, against the waste of house-property caused by fire, earthquakes, inundations, typhoons and war; and the first part of his paper, which is all that we can find room for to-day, gives us the statistics which enabled him to arrive at an estimate of the damage done yearly by these potent enemies of mankind—with the bare statement of the conclusion at which he arrives:—that a house tax of one *per cent* would suffice to cover the cost of rebuilding all houses destroyed! This is a startling statement to make to a foreign community which is paying, on a class of buildings which, as Dr. Mayet points out, are far less exposed to danger of fire than native built houses, as much as three *per cent* for insurance against fire alone, and one-and-a-half upon stone or brick, almost fire-proof, warehouses. We await, with curiosity, the second part of this essay, which will contain the author's summary of his facts and the arguments by which he supports his deduction, and meanwhile shall perhaps oblige those of our readers who have not the time to read the rather lengthy paper itself, by passing briefly in review so much of it as is now published.

The writer commences by justly terming Fire Insurance an important factor in civilization and a powerful aid to the development of national character and trade; and shows how Japanese commerce and the Japanese people suffer from the want of this portion of the foundation of national welfare; how the impossibility of insuring buildings against loss, by either of the five destructive agencies we have named, makes builders careless in their architecture, frightens away capital from investments in mortgage on house property, enfeebles enterprise and stimulates usury. While, on the other hand, were his proposition for 'collective' and compulsory insurance adopted by the Government, he maintains that a great stimulus would be given to the nation's progress, commerce would be more secure, while credit would command cheap money; encouragement would be given to enterprise, and unproductive hoarding of money would be lessened. If it can be proved to satisfaction that all these benefits accrue from a house-tax of two-pence-half-penny in the pound, while at the same time and for the same pittance, the people's houses are assured against fire, earthquake, inundation, wind and war, and the Government left with a small surplus over expenditure,—Dr. Mayet has made a great discovery which merits the widest publication, and we can easily forgive

his giving to our contemporaries copies of a paper which, strictly speaking, should only have been furnished to this Review, the official English organ of the German Asiatic Society.

He proceeds, then, to compute the number of houses annually destroyed in Japan by fire, earthquakes, typhoons, inundations and war, proposing to compare the sum of these with the total number of houses in the country, and thus to arrive at his percentage. He has various means at his command for assembling his figures. Dr. Naumann and Mr. Hattori have recently furnished him with the necessary information respecting earthquakes, and the War and Home Departments have placed at his disposal a detailed statement of the numbers of houses destroyed last year in Kagoshima, Kumamoto, and other places. The damage done by inundations and gales he has to estimate for, but he appears to do so sufficiently liberally, while for the destruction by fire, the most important division of his subject, he has the very minute records kept by the police. And as not only incendiaries, but people who accidentally and innocently cause fires, are punishable by Japanese law, and in various degrees, according to the amount of damage which results from their carelessness or ill-fortune, it follows that of every fire, its origin, extent, and the loss it causes, record is kept by the police; and as Japan is the most over-policed country in the world, this record is very minute, and probably accurate. Thus we get tabular statements showing:—

"The number of houses burned down, in which the fire originated from known causes.

"The number of houses burned down in addition and in consequence of the former.

"The number of conflagrations put out with the help of the police, without serious damage and which occurred from known causes.

"The number of houses burned down in which the cause was unknown.

"The number of houses burned down in addition and in consequence of the above.

"The number of conflagrations put out with the help of the police without serious damage and of which the origin was unknown.

"The number of houses set on fire intentionally.

"The number of houses burned down in addition and in consequence.

"The number of incendiaries arrested."

and then reports being given for two successive years, 1875-6 and 1876-7, a comparison of percentages can be made which, agreeing so closely as it does, goes far to prove, as Dr. Mayet points out, the trustworthiness of the Japanese statistics.

But though the percentages of fires under each of the nine divisions above enumerated agree very closely for the two periods compared, we find the actual number of fires in 1876-7 nearly double that in 1875-6. This Dr. Mayet accounts for by his next two tables, in which he compares

the weather for 1876-7 with that of the three years preceding it, and shows that it was windier and drier, had a greater number of very cold, very hot, and windy days, and a less number with very damp air, and very rainy, than any other of the compared periods. Hence he draws the correct deduction, that the year was more favourable to fires occurring from accidents, and also to their spread, which is fully proved by reference to his fire tables, where the greatest increase is seen to be in the conflagrations from unknown causes, *i.e.* sparks carried by the wind on to substances made readily inflammable by the absence of moisture.

We need not follow Dr. Mayet, step by step, through every paragraph of his paper. We have written enough, we hope, to show our readers that they will be well repaid for the trouble of examining it minutely for themselves. He painfully accumulates, figure by figure, his *data* for calculation of the destruction by the other four causes, and also the expense of extinguishing fire and the cost of administration of the insurance system he proposes to establish. He then, to enable him to combine these figures of destruction and cost, reduces the latter, a money figure, to houses, taking a very low estimate as a house's value; and thus finally arrives at a total of 65,547 houses as the average annual cost, expressed in houses, of damage by fire, earthquake, gales, inundations and war, the cost of extinguishing and cost of administration. Then, comparing Japan with six European countries, and referring to the census of 1875, he concludes that there are in the country 6,938,255 houses and so ends the first part of his paper by dividing the number of houses destroyed into this, and bringing out a quotient of 0.9477 as his insurance premium: that is, a fire rate of less than one *per cent* on the assessed value of house property. This is quite a startling conclusion, at first sight: but we defer further remarks until we have published the second part of the paper.

THE DISPUTE IN THE SILK EGG TRADE.

ONE of the vices of your average reader of newspapers is that he can seldom be induced to glance at a note, far less to turn a page, to refer to statistics, illustrations, or other means of strengthening or elucidating the main argument of any of those short essays which fill a journal's leading columns. Our own readers may have perhaps detected the fact that this is the *raison d'être* of our 'Editorial Notes,' that having sought to drive into their heads our ideas on any subject in a leading article, we have endeavoured to clinch them, by successive taps, in these isolated paragraphs, which, inserted in the main article, might have constituted digressions, or—it may be—have extended the essay itself to a length, dangerous for a writer who sought to have his writing read. We do not seek to make this a cause of quarrel with the "gentle reader"; as the newspaper is but taken up to fill a leisure hour, exertion of every sort must be spared to him: but to account for the fact that we transpose, to-day, from its proper place in our columns, the following translation from the *Hochi Shimbun*, of an article advocating the limitation by Governmental edict, of the production of silkworms' eggs. It is the second and more important of two essays on the same subject: the first duly appeared, last week, under its proper heading "The Japanese Press," and as the native writer summarises it in his few introductory lines, more detailed reference to it by ourselves is needless. This is what he has to say on the present occasion:—

"In my first article, I slightly attacked the arguments of those who are in favour of free production, and though I am not aware whether they consider themselves entirely defeated or not, I end my attack here, and proceeding to the defence of my own position, will give my reasons for advocating the limitation of production.

"A general who is thoroughly acquainted with the state of his own men, as well as with his enemy's, will gain a hundred victories in a hundred battles; and the same holds good in business transactions. Now, though it is necessary to consider equally the circumstances of the Silk worm egg business at home and abroad; yet as there are many who are well acquainted with its condition at home, I will proceed to give a precise account of its condition in foreign countries, *i.e.* will show how Japanese silkworm eggs are employed in Italy and France.

"We hear that the Italian Government, regretting that it should have to import silkworm's eggs from a foreign country, have notified to the people its wish to produce them locally, and after several experiments had been made in the School of Silkworm Production, the parties interested in the business have formed a Company and established a system, for reproducing eggs from Japanese eggs, and selling them to their countrymen at a low price. And the poorer silk-growers, greatly rejoicing at the establishment of this Company, have been producing silk from these reproduced eggs, instead of from Japan eggs, for two or three years (from 1873 to 1875.) But their quality being of course much inferior to the Japanese eggs, those who have been used to grow silk from Japanese eggs of best quality, decidedly disliked these reproduced eggs, and would not use them at all. As, however, several bad eggs were gradually found in the Japanese cards, those who bought such, altered their minds, and began to take to the reproduced. But then, again, in the year 1875, when the silkworms in Italy were much injured by frost, it was found that those coming from the reproduced eggs were weakly, and mostly died; whereas those from the fresh and good Japan eggs were strong, and mostly lived. From that time, the number of growers who have preferred Japan eggs has greatly increased. But the impression that they should produce things themselves, instead of importing them, is prevalent all over the country, and especially the Silk-egg Reproduction Company regards the Japan egg cards as enemies, and tries as much as possible to oppose their importation. And indeed, in 1877, this Company had so far advanced in the art, that it was able to produce pretty good eggs.

"In France, where the best quality is not always wished for, as was mentioned in my first article on the subject, even the reproduced eggs would be gladly bought, so long as they were cheap. But further, as the demand for France is not great, we need not consider it as of much importance. Our main object should be Italy—but the condition of the trade being as above described, we may conclude that the demand for our eggs from foreign countries will go decreasing, year by year. If, therefore, we wish to keep up the good repute and price of our product, the only means is that we should diminish production and only export those of as good a quality as possible. If, however, free production be allowed, and all silk-growers fill cards, with only a speculative outlook, then, as a matter of course, their number will increase more and more, and their value (and as a consequence, price,) will decrease in proportion. A man always moves according to his own view of profit; disinterested men, who were uninfluenced by hope of advantage or fear of injury, only existed among the elevated minds produced by the feudal system: there are probably none such in the present mercantile community*. But a man who seeks for future benefit, should disregard temporary loss; but he must be clever to foresee and able in judgment; whereas I fear that our silk-producers are men who are only capable of seeking for a benefit which is immediately before them. Such being the case, if every body be allowed to produce eggs freely, loss will result. Is not, therefore, the limitation of production an unavoidable course to take? However, man is a living creature and grows: the fool of to-day may be the wise man of to-morrow. The time may come when the nation is more civilized, and trade more widely extended, and the state of affairs, at home and abroad, come to be better understood by the people. Then, if producers, considering their future benefit, of themselves limit production—then free production may be allowed of course. My position is, that granting free

* The writer is clearly a *Samurai*. He has our fullest sympathy in his remark: there is no doubt that New Japan has greatly deteriorated in all the loftier elements of national character.

"production to be right in theory,—practically it is wrong at the present time. I hear that, in the Silkworm Eggs Business Association, the members who are in favour of free production, though few in number, are vigorously contending against the larger number of those who are in favour of limitation; and, though I am not quite sure with which side the decision will finally rest, as this is a matter of great importance for the future interests of our product, I have thus expressed my views as above, for the consideration of those parties who are actually concerned therein."

We are not greatly interested in the errors of this writer respecting the silk trades of France and Italy: our concern is with his arguments respecting the production of silk eggs in Japan. Here, we more than fully go with him. The publication of this Review was inaugurated by an article upon the same subject, in which we advised silk-growers in Japan to devote their most sedulous care to the improvement of their breed of worms by the process of selection and incubation of only the best eggs;—and to steadily refuse to sell any of their first quality to the foreigner. And we promised them, as a certain and almost immediate result of such a policy, an improvement in their silk, and the speedy establishment of a profitable monopoly for their own special growth, which would be grown solely in Japan, instead of, as now, partially in Italy and France. And, as a corollary to this proposition, naturally came the demonstration that, the price of their special growth being raised, they would get a far greater profit by abstaining from parting with their eggs, than they can ever hope to gain by continuing to sell them.

But from what this gentleman and other native writers in the Yedo press tell us, as well as from our own enquiries on the subject, we learn that the traders in the silk-worms' eggs are not by any means all necessarily interested in the trade in silk. It would appear that this comparatively new trade in egg cards is to a great extent in the hands of a class of speculators, the natural product of a gambling, uncertain, business. And looking over the statistical table which we prepared from the Chamber of Commerce returns, and seeing how the export of cards has varied from a million-and-a-half to three-quarters-of-a million, and the prices from three-and-a-half dollars to eight cents, it is quite credible that this is the case. Such a trade must demoralize those who are interested in it as much as lotteries; and to expect them to care for the interests of the nation, or for the interests of the silk trade, or for anything but the chances and changes of their own market, is to expect far more than can be ever attained. It is very gratifying, though rather surprising, to find that there should still be a majority whose views are embodied in the article we quote, and with sufficient influence in this "Silkworms' Egg Business Association" to maintain the limitation policy. It is probable that this majority is composed of capitalists who are interested in the *bond fide* silk business as well as in the silk egg lottery. But it should be remembered that the tendency of the speculator class is to increase; and to corrupt, moreover, the steady-going merchant; and there is grave reason to fear, that the reverse of the proverb our contemporary quotes may come to be true, and that "the wise man of to-day may be the fool of to-morrow." We have argued often enough against governmental interference with trade; but there are exceptions to even so good a general rule as that Trade should be left free; and if it is legitimate for a government to prohibit trade in a drug which is destructive to the health of its subjects, interference becomes an imperative duty when national morality is threatened. This government has properly refused its sanction to the introduction of the Spanish Lottery system; though a large and certain revenue would accrue to itself from the naturalization of this special method of demoralizing the people. The silk egg trade really appears very little better; as we have

shown—if it does enrich a few lucky gamblers, it has a disastrous effect on the great staple industry of the nation; and we should gladly welcome and support any restrictive measures which the Government may think fit to adopt, should the existing majority of the Silk egg Guild fail in maintaining their ground against those who wish to have what they call a 'trade' entirely free.

TOO late to do more than simply record it, we receive from Yedo the information that the following Notification of the *Daijokuwan* was published on Thursday in the native journals of the Capital:—

NOTIFICATION No. 10, BY THE *DAIJOKUWAN*.

"It is hereby notified that the Notifications
 "No. 19 of the 2nd month of the 7th year of Meiji on the Regulations for Silk worm Egg cards;
 "No. 47 of the 3rd month of the 8th year, and
 "No. 39 of the 4th month of the 10th year, on the alterations in the regulations;
 "No. 32 of the 2nd month 8th year, on regulations for Companies for producing Silkworm's eggs and for the Silkworm egg business Associations;
 "No. 65 of the 4th month of the same year, on the additions to the regulations, and
 "No. 42 of the 5th month of the 10th year, upon the production of first Summer Silkworm's eggs, are all hereby cancelled."

(Signed): SANJO SANEYOSHI,
Daijodaijin (Prime Minister.)

4th day of the 5th month of 11th year of Meiji.

Our correspondent has not had time to furnish us with the necessary translations of the Notifications referred to herein as being repealed, and unfortunately, no foreign journal in Yokohama has kept accurate record of the Government edicts, so that it has been impossible for us to get at this information in time for to-day's Review. But our correspondent writes that from current report he gathers that the Notifications rescinded are of "an interfering or limiting nature." It is most devoutly to be wished that merely the petty supervision of Government over the size and shape and stamps of the cards is withdrawn, and not that the minority in the Silk-Egg Guild has managed to induce the Cabinet to refuse its sanction to the decision arrived at by the most prudent and sensible men in the trade—to limit the number of cards this year to the quite sufficient figure of 1,300,000. Should unlimited production be allowed, the result to the trade cannot fail to be disastrous.

OUR failure to discover, ready to our hand, translations of these Notifications suggests the thought that, for many reasons besides saving trouble to journalists, an authorized Government Gazette, published in Japanese and English, would be a valuable addition to Japanese periodical literature. The time is past when the exhibition of Government or Municipal Edicts upon the wayside notice-boards sufficed for the people, as, in Scotch Highland parishes not many years ago, the church door carried announcements of every event interesting to the parishioners. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is generally spoken of as the Government's organ, but it is merely what in European countries is called semi-official, and there is, so far as we know, no sheet published in Tokio equivalent to the *Peking Gazette*. This is certainly wanted: and as Japan is ambitious to become a great commercial country, it would be to general advantage if such a publication were issued in a dual form:—in the vernacular, and in English, the acknowledged commercial language of the world which mercantile men,—French, German, Russian, &c., understand and use in their daily business. It would probably be advisable to employ an Englishman to edit the English half of the *Gazette*, as—particularly when

dealing with commercial technicalities,—the English of most of the native students of that difficult tongue is not every intelligible; but there is no necessity to create a new post with a large salary to get this duty done: there are plenty of foreign employees already in the Japanese service whose work is not so heavy as to preclude their giving a couple of hours once a week to the revision of translations of this sort. And the number of Notifications issued weekly is never so great, but that every foreign journal in Yokohama could find space to give additional circulation to the intelligence.

The system which obtains in the Presidencies of British India is, that, in the Secretariat, there is an apartment devoted to the use of the English and Vernacular Press. All Government Notifications, immediately they are issued, are laid on the table of this room, and, every morning, a reporter from each of the papers goes thither to take a copy of the documents of the day. The Government Gazette is published weekly. If the Japanese Government would adopt this system, and place its Notifications,—in Tokio in Japanese—in a room of the Office, say, of the Home Department; in Yokohama—in English and Japanese—in the Town Hall, it appears to us that it would, in an inexpensive manner, confer a benefit on native and foreign trade.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our column s will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1878.

DEATHS.

On the 3rd May at Kobe, HERBERT AUGUSTUS STEVENS, a native of Jersey.—aged 31 years.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 10TH.

THE *China* left for San Francisco on Saturday morning last, and the *Malacca*, with the English mail due in London July 1st, at daylight on Wednesday. The *City of Peking* left for Hongkong yesterday morning, the repairs to her machinery having been completed; and notwithstanding her long detention here in port, there will be no alteration in the time of her departure hence for San Francisco, which was originally fixed for the 2nd proxo. The *Tibre*, bringing the Marseilles mail of the 24th of March is hourly expected. The *Orissa* bringing the English mail of the 29th of March, left Hongkong at 1 p.m. on the 6th instant. The *Belgie* which left San Francisco on the 20th ultimo. is daily expected, the *City of Tokio*, from the same port, left on the 2nd instant and is due to here on the 22nd instant. The China and coast ports steamers have arrived and departed with their accustomed regularity.

To write Notes of anything but of the one absorbing topic, the First Meeting of the Yokohama Jockey Club, would indeed be a waste of work. The Mails having been got rid of with a sigh of relief, and the Mitsui Bishi Company having civilly dispatched its Shanghai steamer twenty four hours ahead of time,—(when will other resident steam-ship Companies be so accommodating!) almost a clear week was left for the spring holiday: cares and business were all thrown to the gentle May breezes, the Bankers closed their doors, the brokers talked of 'hands' and 'inches,' instead of 'eighths,' the collector ceased to trouble, and the debtor was at rest. Everything favoured the Jockey Club for this, its first meeting;—not a hitch occurring to mar its harmony, no bickering of rival Clubs to spoil the sport,—racing certainly, all round, better than anything we have seen for many a long year, a fairly even distribution of prizes, large fields, no walks-over, splendid and exciting finishes, and a deal of heat. And—perfect weather, so soft, so balmy, so sensuously luxurious that it became a joy simply to breathe the perfumed air. Which to choose? The Races, with

their crowd and excitement, their glitter and fun and music of happy laughter:—or to roam yonder, where the long cloud-shadows move statelily along the Oyama range, now casting a purple mantle on a moor, now dulling the gold of the rape fields at their feet, now giving a fictitious tint of autumn to the budding woods of Spring on steep hill side and in deep ravine. Which to choose?

Merry it is in the greenwood,
When flowers begin to spring,
To lie upon the daisied sod,
And hear the Cuckoo sing.

Cuckoo, cuckoo!

He cries, and flies from tree to tree,
O, what a jolly bird is he!

The ringdove through the woodland calls,
Coo, coo! with loving voice;
Whilst honey-throated nightingales

Make every heart rejoice.

Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet!

They chant from brake and bursting bough;
Warm sunshine gleaming brightly through.

Also at ruddy dawn the lark

Shoots up with warbled song,

And budding grove and dewy park

Ring with his note ere long.

Cheer, dear, dear, cheer:

Come here, ith' clear,

And leave your beds! he, sluttering, cries,

Bidding each nymph and swain arise

To celebrate the Spring.

But the Races occur only twice a year, whereas one can listen to the lark any morning one chooses to get up; a cuckoo clock, aided by a strong imagination and an open window, giving on to a pretty garden landscape, fairly makes up for the absence of the bird,—nightingales are out of the question—this is Musashi, not Hertfordshire,—and, for the ringdove; well we have her, on hospitable owners' luncheon tables, in combination with layers of juicy steak, golden egg-yolks succulent morsels, of ham, all embedded in fragrant jelly and enshrined within the flaky, toothsome crust of pigeon pies. Besides, have we not the ride to the Course, which, by starting half an hour earlier, one may take through rustling fields of bearded wheat, and bosky lanes o'erarched with the sapphire pendants of wisteria blossom, or by hillsides blazing with the wild azalea; a turn of your bridle hand brings you in a couple of minutes within view of the white cliffs of Mississippi Bay, and of those jewel-like islets set in the sparkling summer sea. Turn to approach the Course, and Fusiyaama, a pale blue cloud against a paler sky, suggests less material thoughts, of restful happiness and an eternity of repose. Surely life is worth living in Japan, and seldom so well worth it as in our too brief Spring.

That useful adaptation to man's uses, of a child's go-cart,—the 'jinrickisha'—has somewhat spoilt the pleasures and humours of the road. Of yore, when Yokohama went out of town for its spring or autumn carnival, a crowd of horsemen, with traps of every sort, some extemporised for the occasion, with here and there a handsome 'norimon' or humble, but picturesque 'cango' swept slowly along amid the crowd of natives. Anon, the crowd would have to press to either side and make a lane to give passage to a fire-engine, or a wagonette, or a sample of the 'public spirited' one's omnibuses, dashing along, with as good an imitation of a four-in-hand team as Japan could furnish; and though one was not vividly reminded of the Beaufort bays, or even of a Club drag on Balham Hill;—still, there were the four animals, and there the jolly round red face of a jovial driver, now—alas—'gone over to the majority.' Now—the Japanese 'Pull-man car' is so convenient, so cheap, and saves one so much trouble, that horsemen are rare, carriages only used by ladies, and the eccentric drag is vanished, apparently for ever.

One of the greatest advantages which this meeting has had over most of its predecessors, has been an almost total absence of dust,—thanks, not to an active municipality watering the road, but to most happily timed showers in the early mornings of the race-days. The first day was not quite so fortunate in this respect, and the Course, too, was slightly hard; but the other two were favoured with just sufficient rain to give an exquisite freshness to the gardens of the trim villas which dot the road on either side, to make the road itself agreeable going, and to improve the course into perfection. The attendance was as good as we could hope for, with so many gaps recently made in our social circles by departures,—and with so large a portion of the community disporting themselves at Meanohta and elsewhere in the hills; and the shed called a Grand Stand was comfortably full. Mentioning which, reminds us to petition the powers that

be, when the new Stand is designed, to set apart a pen, up in the roof somewhere, for the representatives of the Fourth Estate, who have now to ply their pencils under circumstances of such difficulty as to render it a wonder that they manage to report at all.

The band of the Russian corvette *Vladnick* on the first day, and the Band of the Japanese Marines on the second and third, discoursed sweet music between the events; a snug little bar, under the Stand, presided over by Mr. Foote, the host of Foote's hotel, gave creature comforts to all hungry and thirsty souls who had not an owner for a friend; the difficult duty of starting large fields of fractious ponies was efficiently discharged by Messrs. Cobden and Glennie; the committee's arrangements were excellent, and their executive officer, Mr. Cruickshank, able and energetic and in both Mr. Fischer and Mr. Kirkwood, the ponies had a judge—'and a good judge too.'

We give below, attached to the official record of each separate race, a slight sketch of each struggle: circumstances 'over which we have no control' compelling us to much abbreviate our notes of the third day's sport:

The twenty-seven prizes run for were divided among ten stables, a very different result to what we have been accustomed to see for so many years, when divided counsels prevailed—and which shows the wisdom of the amalgamation of the rival clubs. Naturally the largest number of prizes fell to the most important stables, the veteran Tartans taking eight, the Baron five, and Mr. John Peel four. Of the separate ponies, *Oyama* was the only one which scored three wins; *Chief Mongolian*, *Allendale*, *Hoolet* and *Sunbeam* taking two races each. A good deal of experience was gained respecting the power and performances of the new class of half-breeds—but our notes are extended already to so great a length that we must defer comment on this, as well as on several other points of interest. If possible, we will have a few lines on sporting matters next week.

YOKOHAMA JOCKEY CLUB.

SPRING MEETING, 1878.

FIRST DAY.—Wednesday, 8th May.

1.—THE TRIAL PLATE.—For China Ponies that have never won a race. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile. (8 entries).

Mr. John Peel's <i>Gone Away</i>	10st	5lbs...	1
Mr. Toggaw's <i>Brown Satin</i>	10st	2lbs...	2
(late <i>Mongolian Wolf</i>)			
Mr. Fritz's <i>Velocity</i>	10st	8lbs...	3

Vagabond 10st 11lbs, *Telephone* 10st 2lbs, and *Brown Prince* 10st, 5lbs, also ran. *Telephone* gave a good deal of trouble at mounting and at the starting post; but after two attempts, the horses were got off to a good start. *Gone Away* jumped off with a lead, which he never lost, and would have won with great ease, but for a shy at some object in the Japanese crowd halfway up the distance, which nearly brought him foul of *Brown Satin*, who was about two lengths behind him. This almost let in *Velocity*, who was lying third, but *Gone Away* being set going again, won by half a length, Time 2.12½.

2.—THE GRIFFINS' PLATE.—Value \$200. For Japan Ponies, *bona fide* Griffins. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$10. First Pony to receive \$175; Second Pony, \$25. Five Furlongs. (8 entries).

Don Carlos' <i>Admiral Rous</i>	10st	6lbs...	1
Mr. John Gilpin's <i>Petrel</i>	10st	4lbs...	2
Mr. Arda's <i>Saint Elme</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Sir John with 10st 2lbs (4lbs over his weight) also went for this. The *Admiral* was a hot favourite for this race and the event justified his backers. To a fair start at the first attempt, the four ponies got off well together, except *Sir John*, who lost ground considerably. *Saint Elme* made the pace as fast as he could with *Petrel* well up. At the Yew Trees *Admiral Rous* was let out and went up into second place, challenged *Saint Elme* at the turn, and won as he liked by several lengths, Mr. Herhausen, bringing up *Petrel* with a "Chifney rush" beating *Saint Elme* by half a length for second honours. Time 1.19.

3.—THE CELESTIAL CUP: Presented.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. (18 entries).

Mr. Fairplay's <i>Chief Mongolian</i>	10st	11lbs...	1
Mr. Morrison's <i>Allendale</i>	10st	8lbs...	2
Mr. Don Carlos' <i>Oyama</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Of the eighteen entered for this interesting race, eight faced the starter. *Liddesdale* showed temper at the post, which caused some delay, but at the third attempt, the lot were sent away with an indifferent start, *Grey Friar*, who carried 3 lbs. extra, with the best of it, and *Allendale* last. *Chief Mongolian* then rapidly drew up and raced level with the leader for about three hundred yards, the *Dwarf*, *Liddesdale*, *Skeddadle*, and *Chance* following in a ruck, five or six lengths behind; *Oyama* and *Allendale*, both hard held,

bringing up the rear. The latter pair then went through their horses, *Allendale*, at the trees, leading *Oyama*; and *Grey Friar* having shot his bolt at the distance post, the two drew up to *The Chief*, but failed to head him, as, after a desperate and hard ridden finish, Mr. Fairplay's dun was landed a winner by a head, the same distance separating *Allendale* and *Oyama*, second and third. Time, 1.38½.

4.—THE BANKERS' CUP: Presented.—For China Ponies that have never won a race here up to date of entry. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Half a mile. (7 entries).

Mr. Morrison's <i>Allendale</i>	10st	8lbs...	1
Mr. Fairplay's <i>Saltarello</i>	10st	11lbs...	2
Mr. Fritz's <i>Velocity</i>	10st	8lbs...	3

Vanguard 10st 5lbs, *Gone Away* 10st 8lbs (3lbs over) and *Sovereign* 10st 11lbs, also ran; six out of the seven entered. Mr. Fritz and Mr. Fairplay both declared to win with their best. At the second attempt, the ponies got away to a bad start, *Saltarello* leading. *Allendale* immediately, however, went to the front, but *Saltarello* pressed him hard and to the turn the pace was made very fast. Here *Allendale* bolted to the outside rails, *Saltarello* following him as far as the centre of the course, *Gone Away*, too, who was lying third, imitating the bad example. This let in *Velocity*, who ran straight, but was unable to reach the two leaders, Mr. Marlborough, by sheer riding, and unsparing use of both steel and whipcord, landing the favourite a winner by a head. *Saltarello* second, *Velocity* a good third. Time 1.02.

5.—THE TEA CUP: Presented.—For Japan ponies. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Half a mile. (13 entries).

Mr. John Peel's <i>Annandale</i>	10st	4lbs...	1
Major Arda's <i>Saint Elme</i>	10st	4lbs...	2
Mr. Weller's <i>Jim Hills</i> (late <i>The Convert</i>)	10st	4lbs...	3

Of the thirteen entered for this, an appearance was put in by nine, the six beaten ponies being *Monarque* 10st 6, *Drift* 10st 2, the extraordinarily named *King All Francis* 10st 4, *Oyama* 10st 4, *Admiral Rous* 10st 6, and *Plover* 10st 2. Don Carlos declared to win with *Admiral Rous* and Major Arda to win with his best.

The large field was got away to a good start, *Saint Elme*, however, securing the best of it. He was ridden hard from start to finish and made it the fastest race of the day. *Annandale* took second place, and nothing else was able to get up, *Admiral Rous* apparently being unable to get through his horses. At the turn he bolted, which lost him the race. *Annandale*, meanwhile, ridden well and with judgment, caught *Saint Elme* a few strides from home and won on the post by a short head, *Jim Hills* securing third place. Time 1 min.

6.—THE PROFESSIONAL CUP: Presented.—For China Ponies. Weight inches. Entrance \$5. One mile and a half. (11 entries)

Mr. Morrison's <i>Hoolet</i>	10st	8lbs...	1†
Mr. Robertson's <i>Dibs</i>	10st	8lbs...	1†
Mr. Fritz's <i>Vandal</i>	10st	5lbs...	3

Bonny Doon 10st 8, *Hah Daiku San* (late *Kingfisher*) 10st 11, *Mongolian Chief* 10st 8, and *Sport* 10st 5, also ran, Mr. Robertson declaring "best to win." They got off leisurely to a good start, *Mongolian Chief*, with *Bonny Doon* in close attendance, leading the field past the stand. *Dibs* and *Hoolet* then closed on the leaders, and *Bonny Doon* was eased going up the hill: at the three-quarter mile post *Dibs* took a strong lead, and the *Chief* falling back was passed by *Hoolet*. From the half mile in, the favourites had the race to themselves, each alternately getting his head to the front, but finishing, after a most exciting and punishing struggle, with a dead heat. *Vandal* a bad third. Time 3.24½.

In the deciding heat, which was run after the seventh race, the two cracks got away on even terms, *Dibs* soon taking a slight lead, which he kept past the Stand and down the hill. Rising up again, *Hoolet* ran up to him, however, challenged, and after a game attempt by *Dibs* to hold his own, passed him and gradually drawing away, came in a winner by three lengths. Time 3.28.

7.—MITSU BISHI CHALLENGE CUP.—Value \$200. Presented by the Mitsu Bishi Company. For Japan Ponies. To be won at two consecutive meetings by the same stable, to be held in the mean time by the last winner. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Once round and a distance. (Last winner Mr. Morrison's *Distemper*.) (6 entries).

Mr. Morrison's <i>Distemper</i>	10st	6lbs...	1
Mr. Don Carlos' <i>Kangaroo</i>	10st	6lbs...	2
(late <i>Kickapoo</i>)			
Mr. Fritz's <i>Fleur de Lys</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Only the three placed horses started, *Fleur de Lys* with a lead, *Kangaroo* next, and *Distemper* held. *Kangaroo* closing on the leader as the half mile post, *Distemper* was now ridden out, and passing *Fleur de Lys*, got up to *Kangaroo* at the distance post, and after one of the most splendid finishes of the day, secured the Cup for Mr. Morrison by the shortest of heads.

8.—THE CONSULAR CUP: Presented.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Once Round. (17 entries).

Mr. John Peel's <i>Sunbeam</i>	10st	2lbs...	1
Mr. Morrison's <i>Braemar</i>	10st	8lbs...	2
Mr. Savile's <i>Crusader</i>	10st	5lbs...	3

Of the seventeen entries, eight ponies went to the post, the others than those placed being *Vandal*, with 10st 5, *The Dwarf* 9st 13, *Liddesdale*, 10st 11, *Chance* 10st 2 and *Bravo* 10st 5.

This was the 'surprise' of the day, *Braemar* being made a strong favourite. A most beautiful start was effected and the horses went down the hill in a cluster which a sheet would have covered, *Crusader* leading. Rising the hill *Braemar* wrested the lead from him, but *Sunbeam* was directly afterwards ridden out, and, passing the Tartan crack, was never again approached and won with apparent ease by four or five lengths, as much separating *Braemar* from *Crusader* and the rest of the field. This third and rather unexpected victory for the Blue and Silver was greeted with loud acclamations, and cheers for his popular owner. Time 2.14.

9.—THE ITO CUP: Presented.—Open to Professional Riders For Japan Ponies. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile. (6 entries).

Don Carlos' <i>Oyama</i>	10st	4lbs...	1
Don Carlos' <i>Kangaroo</i>	10st	12lbs...	2
Mr. Weller's <i>Jim Hills</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Admiral Rous was the only absentee for this race *Annandale* with 10st 4 and *King all Francis* with the same, going to the post with the above three, Don Carlos declaring to win with his best. *Jim Hills*, who seems fond of a preliminary canter, caused some delay and several false starts; but at last they got away well together; Don Carlos' pair were held to the half mile post, the other three racing level. Here *Oyama* and *Kangaroo* began to creep up and their field falling back to them, had the race to themselves for the last quarter of a mile, *Oyama* winning by a head. Time 2.14.

SECOND DAY.—Thursday 9th May.

1.—THE COMMUNITY CUP: Presented.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Winners of one Race at the Meeting 7-lbs. extra; of more than one race 10-lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Once Round. (17 entries).

Mr. Morrison's <i>Lintie</i>	10st	2lbs...	1
Mr. Robertson's <i>Dibs</i>	10st	8lbs...	2
Mr. John Peel's <i>Bonny Doon</i>	10st	8lbs...	3

The 'Ladies' day' began with a very fine race. None of the winners of yesterday being able to give away 7lbs to *Dibs*, *Lintie* or *Bonny Doon*, these three were accompanied to the post only by *Vanguard*, 10st 5, *Grey Friar*, 10st 2, and *The Dwarf*, 9st 13, making a field of six out of 17 entries. Mr. Fritz declared to win with his best. *Lintie* was decidedly the favourite for this event. After a few false starts, due mainly to *Vanguard*'s restiveness, the flag fell to a good start with *Lintie* leading, and *Bonny Doon* second, followed by *Dibs* and *Dwarf*, Mr. Fritz's pair bringing up the rear. In this order they past the stand and went down the hill, when *Bonny Doon*, who had had to make the running for himself, was indulged with a pull and dropped back to fifth. *Dibs* now came up through the others and gradually drawing up to *Lintie*, a fine race ensued between the pair, but though the favourite had had about enough of it, Mr. Marlborough was able to get just enough out of him to beat *Dibs* by a head. *Bonny Doon* was a bad third. Time 2.15.

2.—VISITORS' CUP: Presented.—For Japan ponies that have never won a race. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Half a mile. (11 entries).

Major Arda's <i>Saint Elme</i>	10st	4lbs...	1
Mr. Peter's <i>Snake</i>	10st	6lbs...	2
Mr. John Gilpin's <i>Petrel</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Only *Main Chance*, with 10st 6, joined the three placed ponies at the starting post. When the flag fell, *Petrel* was three lengths behind, *Saint Elme* leading. The former, however, quickly joined the leader, but bolting at the Bay turn went out of the race which was left to *Snake* and *Saint Elme*, the former winning easily by a length. Time 1.01½.

3.—THE MERCHANTS' CUP: Presented.—For China Ponies. Winner of No. 6, First Day, 7-lbs. extra. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile and a quarter. (14 entries).

Mr. Morrison's <i>Braemar</i>	10st	8lbs...	1
Mr. John Peel's <i>Sunbeam</i>	10st	2lbs...	2
Mr. Robertson's <i>Favari</i>	10st	5lbs...	3

As *Hoolet* did not appear, there was nothing in the race to help the handicappers' judgment for to-morrow, *Vandal*, with 10st 5, and *Brown Satin*, with 10st 2, with the three placed horses, gave us a field of five. *Brown Satin* started with a lead, until the pace improved, when he fell back to *Braemar* and *Sunbeam*, who were running level, with *Favari* well up, *Vandal* last; at the three-quarter miles post *Braemar* showed in front, but *Sunbeam* recovered and

improved his position at the half mile, *Favari* lying third, and the rest dropping behind. From here to the turn, the race lay between the two leaders, but here *Braemar*'s superior staying power began to tell, and he came away, winning as he liked, second and third honours remaining with *Sunbeam* and *Favari*. Time 2.58.

4.—THE LADIES PURSE: Presented by the ladies of Yokohama, —For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Half a mile. (20 entries).

Mr. Morrison's <i>Allendale</i>	10st	8lbs...	1
Major Arda's <i>Saint Elme</i>	10st	4lbs...	2
Don Carlos' <i>Admiral Rous</i>	10st	6lbs...	3

This of course was the race of the day, and to contest for the valued prize the largest field of the meeting went to the post, no less than twelve out of the twenty ponies entered facing the starters. On our narrow course and with such animals, and gentlemen jocks, it was not to be wondered at that several false starts took place. When they were at last got away, *Allendale* went off with a slight lead, which he never lost. *Saint Elme*, *Admiral Rous* and *Skedaddle* were, however, in close company with him as far as the distance post, where the last-named fell away, and left the race to the other three. Won by half a length, Mr. Marlborough's riding being much admired. *Admiral Rous* a good third, and *Salterito* within a neck of him. Time very fair 1.02.

Miss Center presented the prize with the usual appropriate congratulation, and Mr. Marlborough replied as well as jockey. generally do when they are hurried out of the saddle for the purpose, after riding a severe finish, concluding by begging the lady's acceptance of a bouquet from the Committee.

5.—THE DIPLOMATIC CUP: Presented.—For Japan ponies. Winners of one race three-quarters of a mile or under at this meeting, 7-lbs. extra. of two or more such races, 12-lbs. extra. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Three-quarter of a mile (10 entries).

Don Carlos' <i>Kangaroo</i>	10st	12lbs...	1
Mr. Morrison's <i>Distemper</i>	10st	6lbs...	2
Mr. John Peel's <i>Annandale</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Of the ten entries for this, only four came to the post—*Annandale* penalized with 7 lbs., which proved too much for him against *Distemper*. *Monarque*, carrying 10 st. 4 completed the field. A capital start was effected, *Monarque* with a slight advantage and *Distemper* waiting. At the trees, *Kangaroo*, *Annandale* and *Distemper* all closed on the leader, who fell back as the turn was rounded into the straight run in, when another good finish resulted in a victory for *Kangaroo* by a short head, with *Annandale* an excellent third. Time 1.41.

6.—THE MITSU BISHI CHALLENGE CUP.—Presented. Value \$200. For China Ponies. To be won at two consecutive meetings by a Poney or Ponies, the *bond fide* property of the same owner or owner to be held by the last winner at each meeting until finally won. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One mile and three-quarters. (Last winner Mr. Robertson's *Dibs*.) (12 entries).

Mr. Robertson's <i>Dibs</i>	10st	8lbs...	1
Mr. Morrison's <i>Hoolet</i>	10st	8lbs...	2
Mr. Fred. Mason's <i>Brown Prince</i>	10st	5lbs...	3

Seven started, *Vagabond*, with 10 st 11, *Doncaster* 10 st 8, *Brown Prince*, 11 st (9 lbs over weight) and *Braemar*, 10 st 9, (1 lb over) make up the number. *Dibs* reversed the judge's verdict of yesterday by beating *Hoolet*, and *Brown Prince* showed himself a good pony by running into third place, in spite of his extra weight. The race presented no feature of interest, as *Dibs* at the three quarter mile post took a decided lead, *Hoolet* failed to get up to him. The Cup remains in Mr. Robertson's hands, *Dibs* having won it at the last Autumn meeting. Time 4.7.

7.—THE LUSITANO CUP: Presented.—For Japan Ponies' Weight for inches. Winners of one race at this meeting, 7-lbs. extra, of two or more races, 10-lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. One mile. (8 entries).

Don Carlos' <i>Oyama</i>	10st	4lbs...	1
Mr. Weller's <i>Jim Hills</i>	10st	4lbs...	2
Mr. Morrison's <i>Distemper</i>	10st	8lbs...	3

Only these three started and got away well together. The pace was made too strong for *Distemper*, who had run in the 5th race, whereas the other two were fresh. They raced together nearly to the yew Trees, when *Oyama* came away and won easily, Time 2.19.

8.—HACK STAKES.—For all Ponies not otherwise entered, except for the Hurdle Race, and that have never won a flat race. Weight 12-stone. Entrance \$5. Three-quarters of a mile. (6 entries).

Mr. Alexander's <i>Petit Pas</i>	10st	2lbs...	1
Mr. Morrison's <i>Ironhorse</i>	10st	4lbs...	2
Mr. Hugo's <i>Antelope</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Bockere (late the *Snark*) was the only other competitor for this race, which was quite uninteresting, *Petit pas* taking a lead at the quarter mile and winning in a canter. Time 1.48.

9.—THE SPRING CUP.—For Japan Ponies that have been beaten at this meeting. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. Five furlongs. (14 entries).

Mr. John Gilpin's <i>Phoebe</i>	10st	2lbs...	1
Mr. John Gilpin's <i>Petrel</i>	10st	4lbs...	2
Mr. Weller's <i>Jim Hills</i>	10st	4lbs...	3

Drift with 10st 6, (4lbs extra) *King All Francis* 10st 10, (6lbs extra) *Fleur de Lys*, *Monarque* and *Main Chance*, all carrying 10st 6

made up a good field of eight. A great number of false starts took place, chiefly the fault of *Main Chance*: *Petrel* jumped the fence, fortunately without accident to himself or rider. When they were at last got away, *Plover*, *Monique* and *King* showed together in front, but coming into the straight the latter dropped back and gave up his place to *Jim Hills*.

Petrel then ran up into second place, but was unable to do more than reach *Plover's* quarters, who won a well contested race by nearly a length *Jim Hills* third. Time 1.21.

THIRD DAY,—Friday, 10th May.

1.—**THE HURDLE RACE**.—Value, \$75. For all Ponies, over six (6) hurdles. Entrance \$5. One round and a distance. (8 entries).

Mr. Robertson's *Favori*, 10st 5lbs 1
Mr. Fritz's *Vanguard*, 10st 5lbs 2

Favori won easily: a slow race but the fencing very pretty.

2.—**THE OWNERS' CUP**.—Presented.—For all Ponies. Weight as per scale. Entrance \$5. Three furlongs. (19 entries).

Mr. Robertson's *Chance*, 10st 2lbs 1
Mr. Peter's *Skedaddle*, 10st 2lbs 2
Major Arda's *Saint Elme*, 10st. 8lbs 3

Six others run: a close race, *Chance* winning by a short head, the third pony well up.

3.—**THE CHINA CHAMPION STAKES**.—For China Ponies. Compulsory on winners on 1st and 2nd days at this meeting. A Sweepstake of \$10. with \$5 extra for every Race won. Open also to Ponies placed second, at an entrance fee of \$5, to go the Fund. Entries to be made on the Course at the close of the second day's racing. First Pony to receive 75 per cent., second Pony 25 per cent. Weight for inches. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Morrison's *Hoolet*, 10st 8lbs 1
Mr. Robertson's *Dibs*, 10st 8lbs 2
Mr. Morrison's *Braemar*, 10st 8lbs 3

Four started *Hoolet* winning a splendid race from the second and third.

4.—**THE JAPAN CHAMPION STAKES**.—For Japan Ponies. Compulsory on winners on 1st and 2nd days at this meeting. A sweepstake of \$10, with \$5 extra for every Race won; with \$50 added. Open also to Ponies placed second, at an entrance fee of \$5, to go to the Fund. Entries to be made on the Course at the close of the second day's racing. First Pony to receive 75 per cent., second Pony to receive 25 per cent. Weight for inches. One mile.

Don Carlos' *Oyama*, 10st. 4lbs... .. 1
Mr. Morrison's *Distemper*, 10st. 6lbs 2

Won easily.

5.—**CHINA CONSOLATION**.—For China Ponies beaten at this meeting. Weight for inches. Entrance \$5. One round and a distance. (24 entries).

Mr. Toggaw's *Brown Satin*, 10st 5lbs 1
Mr. Savile's *Crusader*, 19st 6lbs 2
Mr. Fritz's *Velocity*, 10st 8lbs... .. 3

A fast race and the result a 'surprise.' Both owner and jockey of *Brown Satin* received quite an ovation.

6.—**THE JAPAN CONSOLATION**.—For Japan Ponies beaten at this meeting. Weight for inches. (18 entries).

Mr. John Gilpin's *Petrel*, 10st 4lbs... .. 1
Mr. Peter's *Snake*, 10st 6lbs 2
Mr. Fairplay's *Fleur de Lys*, 10st 4lbs 3

Won pretty easily by the favourite.

7.—**THE GERMAN CUP**.—Open to Professional Riders. For China Ponies. To be handicapped by the Stewards at the close of the second day's racing, when entries will be received.

John Peel's *Subearm*, 10st 12lbs 1
Mr. Robertson's *Dibs*, 21st 10lbs 2
Mr. Fairplay's *Chief Mongolian*, 11st 3

A splendid race between the three placed.

8.—**THE AMERICAN CUP**.—Open to Professional Riders. For Japan Ponies. To be handicapped by the Stewards at the close of the second day's racing, when entries will be received. Entrance \$5. Once round.

Mr. Weller's *Jim Hills*, 10st 0lbs 1
Don Carlo's *Kangaroo*, 11st 0lbs 2
Mr. Peter's *Snake*, 9st 12lbs 3

Another beautiful finish and a somewhat unexpected result, as *Jim Hills*, as usual, had misbehaved himself at the post and taken a preliminary canter.

9.—**THE LEDGER CUP**.—Presented.—For China Ponies. Open to Professional Riders. Weight for inches. Winners of one race at this meeting 7lbs, of two races, 10lbs, of more than 2 races, 14lbs extra. Entrance \$5. Three-quarters of a mile. (20 entries).

Mr. Fairplay's *Chief Mongolian*, 11st 4lbs (7lbs extra) 1
Mr. Morrison's *Lintie*, 10st 9lbs... .. 2
Mr. Peter's *Skedaddle*, 10st 2lbs 3

Mr. Fairplay scored another win in this race with *Chief Mongolian*, beating *Lintie* very cleverly by half a length.

A couple of bettors' races, won by *Kangaroo* and *Skedaddle* respectively, finished this most successful Meeting.

COLLECTIVE INSURANCE OF BUILDINGS IN JAPAN.

(A paper read before the German Asiatic Society—April the 13th 1878. By P. MAYET.)

THE following paper deals with the average yearly destruction of buildings in Japan by fire, earthquakes, gales, inundations and war, combined with a proposition for an obligatory insurance of buildings against all these risks, in order to render property secure and to enable mortgages to be made with safety and at a low rate of interest.

The importance of insurance in the development of civilised nations can scarcely be overrated. As a proof that I am not alone in attaching so much weight to this subject I will quote from one of our best known authorities on the subject of insurance. The Right Honorable Jacobi, a member of the Prussian parliament, and who was appointed in 1869 by the Committee of Commerce and Industry as the referee concerning the two bills proposed by the Prussian government regulating the entire insurance system of the country, wrote as follows*: "Fire insurance at the present time, constitutes one of the most important parts of the basis of our commerce and industry, of the welfare of every individual in town and country, from those dwelling in hovels to those who luxuriate in marble palaces, from the keeper of the smallest stall to the manager of the largest merchant's office and to the owner of the most extensive warehouses, from the journeyman workman to the largest manufacturer. If we imagine for a moment that this foundation on which our national welfare rests, is shaken or even only trembles, commerce and industry would be seriously paralyzed, bringing about a calamity which would be deeply felt throughout the country."

Japan is in want of this foundation for its national welfare, Japanese commerce and industry are seriously paralyzed, the want of a fire insurance is a real national calamity.

Without a system of fire insurance, no Japanese can feel sure of his property for a single day: it is as if no police, no armed force existed in the country, while numerous hordes of brigands scourged it from North to South, looting all property in their pitiless raids:—these latter could scarcely pillage as many tens of thousands of houses, as the flames do in their yearly course.

But this is not all. Other great dangers arising from causes, it is true, of a longer periodicity and therefore not always so present to the mind, but none the less dreadful in the results they produce, menace the prosperity of Japan: terrible earthquakes destroy whole towns, and with earthquakes roll in vast waves from the sea, sweeping off whole villages from the coast; ravaging typhoons leave destruction in their rear, and war and revolution devour villages and towns.

No wonder that the spirit of enterprise is feeble, that no one will build good houses for the fire to feed on and the earthquakes to sport with, that manufactories are not erected and no money risked in worthy enterprise, that usury laws become necessary, to limit the rate of interest asked for insecure mortgages on houses, wares and machinery.

A collective insurance against all the above named risks would change at once these conditions; it would add to the value of the title deed of every property in Japan, and would enable trustworthy merchants and men of enterprise to obtain cheap credit. How many resources would then be developed, how many now impossible schemes would start into life! Each existing trade would be developed and be placed on a safer basis; the industries would grow, and with them the capacity of the country to export.

But it may be asked, are we not building castles in the air, which vanish at the first attempt to touch them? Is collective insurance against all these risks combined, or even only a fire insurance, possible? Would not every Japanese, deterred by the high rate of the insurance premium, rather prefer to run the risk, and hope that he might escape safely, and be always among the luckier ones? Would not the minimum insurance premium necessary to be levied be altogether beyond the means of the people?

*Die Zeitschrift des K. Preuss. Statistischen Bureau. Ergaenzungsheft II. Beiträge zur Gesetzgebung ueber des Versicherungswesen im Allgemeinen und das Feuer-Versicherungswesen insbesondere. Von L. Jacobi Koenigl. Geh. Regierungsrath Berlin 1869 p 15.

To give a contribution to the data necessary for deciding a question of the utmost importance to the future welfare of the Japanese people has led me to make the following investigation, which I now have the honour to lay before you, regarding the minimum insurance premium rendered necessary by the conditions of the country.

Therefore this paper deals with the average number of buildings which are yearly destroyed in Japan. Complete records are obtainable for at least one, and that by far the most important—fire—of the five agents, which work destruction among the houses of this country.

As regards the destruction brought about by movements of the earth, Dr. Naumann has recently, in his highly interesting paper on earthquakes in Japan, communicated to this Society, and subsequently Mr. Hattori, in a paper read before the Asiatic Society of Japan, supplied the necessary data for allowing an approximate estimate to be made. As regards the damages done by gales and inundations, where these do not accompany earthquakes, the returns are still less precise. Vast as may be the damage caused in any single instance by gales and inundations, even when unaccompanied by earthquakes, still it will be quite obvious, that on the whole the destruction attributable to earthquakes greatly exceeds that resulting from gales and inundations. Therefore, if I take the destruction due to these two causes as equal, I shall be exaggerating rather than underrating. For the number of buildings destroyed by war and insurrections, the results of the late rebellion offer some assistance.

We will then compare the number of houses destroyed yearly by these five active causes with the total number of houses existing in Japan, and from this calculate the average relative destruction. Under the hypothesis that the average value of all houses destroyed or not destroyed is the same, the proportion that the number of destroyed houses bears to the number of undestroyed enables us directly to determine what percentage of the value of the houses must be paid as a yearly premium, to enable a collective insurance to be commercially successful. You will be astonished to find how small would be the premium, were there a general obligatory insurance.

Various reasons given at the end of the paper, lead me to suggest not a private insurance, but rather a house duty for Japan, as an equivalent for which the government pledges itself to make good all damage done to buildings by the above mentioned causes.

I.—THE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY FIRE IN JAPAN is to be found recorded in the hitherto unpublished police reports compiled by the Home Department for the whole of Japan, and which have been kindly placed at my disposal. To these police reports, for several reasons an important and interesting production of Japanese statistics, I will take the liberty of drawing your attention in a future paper. For my present purpose, I desire only to employ the nine points concerning conflagrations in these reports. The Japanese police force is actively interested in conflagrations, since not only incendiaries, but even those who unintentionally cause fire, are people to be arrested and punished. If the house accidentally set fire to is uninhabited, the persons receive 10 days' imprisonment with hard labour; if it is inhabited and the fire be produced by the proprietor, then he is punished with 20 days; if by the tenant, 30 days; if the fire spread to other houses the sentence is 40 days, and when any body is killed thereby, one degree heavier; but if the person killed is a relative of the first degree, the punishment is 100 days; if the house belongs to the Government 100 days; if a temple, from sixty days to one year, but ten years are inflicted if it happens to one of the great temples of Ise, or in the precincts of the Imperial palace. If a robber sets fire unintentionally to a house, he is punished with at least three years' imprisonment with hard labour. Decapitation awaits incendiaries, ten years' penal servitude an attempt at arson; the punishment being mitigated if the would-be incendiary is a servant who has just received a sharp rebuke, or if the attempt be made on an uninhabited dwelling. If a man set fire to his own house, ninety days, but if the fire spread to houses in the neighbourhood two years and a half; but penal servitude for life is inflicted, if the offender profits by the opportunity of the fire to purloin goods or property.*

* A Summary of the Japanese Penal Codes: by J. H. Longford Esq. p. p. 91-93.

The police reports therefore are divided into four chapters as follows:—

- a. robbery and thefts;
- b. arrests;
- c. accidents and occurrences;
- d. successful acts of the police;

and refer to:

1. The number of houses burned down, in which the fire originated from known causes.
2. The number of houses burned down in addition and in consequence of the former.
3. The number of conflagrations put out with the help of the police, without serious damage and which occurred from known causes.
4. The number of houses burned down in which the cause was unknown.
5. The number of houses burned down in addition and in consequence of the above.
6. The number of conflagrations put out with the help of the police without serious damage and of which the origin was unknown.
7. The number of houses set on fire intentionally.
8. The number of houses burned down in addition and in consequence.
9. The number of incendiaries arrested.

The reports run from the 1st July to the 30th June: that for 1876-77 containing a comparison, showing the excess or diminution under each head, which latter is not given in the report for 1875-76. We may therefore conclude that there were no earlier police statistics. The total number of conflagrations and of houses burned down is not given as a single item in the police reports, but the information is scattered over the different chapters above referred to. Moreover there is no percentage comparison.

THE NUMBER OF CONFLAGRATIONS.

	1875-76	1876-77
1.—Accidental, origin known	4,066	7,252
2.—Do. do. put out by the police...	410	909
Total number of conflagrations with known origin	4,476	8,161
3.—Origin unknown	1,506	2,937
4.—Do. put out by the police...	245	762
5.—Cases of incendiarism	587	263
Total of doubtful cases and those arising from incendiarism...	2,338	3,962
Grand total	6,814	12,143

It will be observed that a decrease occurred only in the number of conflagrations which are numerically of the least importance, namely the detected cases of incendiarism. But in all the other cases there was an increase, and I may say such a large one, that it might seem to be nearly abnormal, or that the published list could not be relied on. Now is this the case?

A glance at the percentage value of the single items shows in all cases such a wonderful equality, in the different kinds of conflagrations for both years, that this equality alone must speak for the trustworthiness of the table.

CONFLAGRATIONS IN PERCENTAGES OF THE TOTAL NUMBER.

	1875-76.	1876-77.
1st Accidental, origin known	59.67	59.72
2nd Put out by the police, origin known	6.02	7.49
Total number of conflagrations with known origin...	65.69	67.21
3rd Origin unknown	22.10	24.35
4th " put out by the police	3.60	6.27
5th Cases of incendiarism	8.61	2.17
Total of the doubtful cases and those arising from incendiarism	34.31	32.79
Grand Total	100.00	100.00

The general similarity of the percentages noticed in the above table for these two years is in itself a sufficient proof of its trustworthy character.

Let us now turn our attention to the increase in the respective items, and it will be easy to see, that the numbers divide themselves into two groups having wholly different reasons for their respective increments.

THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONFLAGRATIONS.

	Absolute increase of the fires.	Increase per cent. compared with 1875-76.
1.—Accidental fires with known origin.	3,186	78.36
2.—The same put out by the police	499	121.71
Total of these conflagrations	3,685	82.33
3.—Fires with unknown origin	1,451	96.35
4.—The same put out by the police	517	211.02
Total of these conflagrations	1,968	112.28
Total of conflagrations with known and unknown origin.	5,653	90.78
5.—Fires occasioned by incendiarism...	324	55.20
Grand total	5,329	78.21

In the above table, the greatest deviations are noticeable in that group of items, the number of which is influenced by human premeditation and activity: that is, setting houses on fire on the one hand and putting them out on the other. The increase of fires extinguished by 121 and 211 per cent, and the diminution in the number of acts of incendiarism by 55 per cent, are tests of the progressing development of the police system and the means for the extinction of fires.

As a proof that the working of the police was much more effective in 1876-77 we may observe another prominent fact: namely, that the number of incendiaries arrested has increased from 127 to 149, so that while with 587 acts of incendiarism in 1875-76 only about 1/5 or 21.63 per cent were arrested; in 1876-77 on the other hand with only 263 incendiary fires, more than half of the incendiaries or 56.65 per cent were captured.

Now with the second group, which we have not yet considered, what is the cause of the large increase in the total number of conflagrations of known origin, by 82.33 per cent; of the total number of conflagrations with unknown origin by 112.28 per cent; and of the total of known and unknown origin together, excepting those caused by incendiaries, by 90.78 per cent? What is the reason for this approximate doubling of the number of conflagrations? and why has the number of conflagrations of unknown origin increased by 112 per cent, while those of known origin have only increased by 82 per cent? The answers to these questions I find in the great climatic difference between the years 1876 and 1877.

But before enlarging on this difference, I must ask you to excuse the somewhat elaborate way in which I am compelled to take up the question; but I feel sure you will give me your forbearance when you remember that, should I succeed in establishing a connection between the number of conflagrations and the weather, we should be led to conclude that in those years in which the conditions were most favourable to conflagrations, there would be found the greatest number of fires. Now to recognize these maximum years would obviously be of the greatest importance, in determining the rate of the insurance premium.

The condition of the weather has a much greater effect in this country on the origin of fires than with us, because the closing of the houses against the weather is not so complete in this country. Here in Japan, no stove, nor mass of heated air confined in the room keeps out the cold, but only a more extensive use of the open charcoal brazier; the wind if strong enough, blows through the whole house and can whirl up the sparks from the *hibachis* and from the open fire places that are let into the floor between the mats, or can set a little tobacco ash glowing. And in addition to this, the fatal custom of every one having at his side, when at work in the open air, a fire for warming his tea or lighting his pipe, often in dangerous proximity to buildings, gives to every blast of wind as it sweeps along over the whole of Japan, ample opportunity to whisk up a considerable number of sparks from the several millions of burning fires and little heaps of still glowing ashes and to whirl them on. If there is much dampness in the air the sparks are quickly extinguished; the oftener rain has fallen and wetted every thing, the seldomer will the sparks set fire to what they fall on; but excessive heat will dry up every thing, and make it ready to kindle. Heat and cold, the velocity of the wind, the amount of damp and rain, are all variable quantities for the different years, and therefore the number of conflagrations will vary with them. Days which are very cold or very hot, or very windy, or very dry, favour the commencement of fires.

A comparison of the two years 1875-77 is fortunately rendered possible by the excellent and complete observations made daily by Mr. Knipping, which were kindly placed at my disposal, for that period, not yet published in the "Mittheilungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft fuer Natur und Voelkerkunde Ostasiens."

We find

For the period:	In Average.			The n'ber of days with.				
	Velocity of the wind in English miles.	The dampness of the air in per cent.	Rainfall in Paris lines.	32° F. and less.	77° F. and more.	Velocity of the wind more than 100 E. m.	Dampness of the air 90 o/o and more.	100 Cubic inches of rain fall and more.
July 1st 1875 to June 30th 1876...	85.24	76.38	924.47	66	76	104	50	41
July 1st 1876 to June 30th 1877...	105.78	74.16	626.99	80	105	172	34	24
1877 was thus ...	windier	drier	drier	had more cold	more hot	more very windy	less very damp	less very rainy

the preceding year. It was in every respect then more favourable to fires, and the numbers which point out its favouring qualities I have made prominent in the above table. So it is at least, for the observations for Tokio, and if it be remembered that the dry character of the year 1877 was spread over a wide area of the Asiatic continent, causing famines there, we may fairly conclude that somewhat the same results would have been obtained if the observations had been extended over the whole of Japan.

Not only did the year 1876-77 favour the origin and spreading of conflagrations more than the year 1875-76, but also more than any of the two other preceding years, for which equally complete observations (with the exception of the anemometer observations for 1873 to March 1874) exist.

For we find

For the period:	In Average.			The n'ber of days with.				
	Velocity of the wind in English miles.	The dampness of the air in per cent.	Rainfall in Paris lines.	32° F. and less.	77° F. and more.	Velocity of the wind more than 100 E. m.	Dampness of the air 90 o/o and more.	100 Cubic inches of rain fall and more.
July 1st 1873 to June 30th 1874...	98.32	75.47	868.86	53	90	150	52	29
July 1st 1874 to June 30th 1875...	94.80	74.36	638.58	69	79	145	35	24
July 1st 1875 to June 30th 1876...	85.24	76.38	924.47	66	76	104	50	41
July 1st 1876 to June 30th 1877...	105.78	74.16	626.99	80	105	172	34	24
The year 1876-77 was thus... ..	windier	drier	drier	had more cold	more hot	more very windy	less very damp	less very rainy

any of the three preceding years. In fact with reference to these qualities it was a year in which there

* 98.32 is really the average of the velocity of the wind measured in English miles for the four months March, April, May, June 1874, but as there are no records of anemometer observations for the preceding eight months, I have taken the above number as representing the average for the whole year.

† From July 1873 to the end of February 1874 the strength of the wind was divided into four degrees by the effect it had on the trees, and it was considered to be of degree 3 and 4 for 70 days, but for the four months March to June 1874 these estimates which gave 30 days of strength 3 and 4 of the wind, were supplemented by records of the anemometer observations giving 45 days with a velocity of more than 100 English miles. As therefore for the whole year the eye estimates give 100 days with the wind strength 3 and 4, we may assume that the anemometer would have recorded about 150 days with strong wind.

were a maximum number of meteorological conditions favouring fires.

Therefore we shall certainly not underestimate the necessary value of the premium, if we take the number of conflagrations and the damages done by them during this year as a standard for calculation.

Now since at single fires there are destroyed hundreds and sometimes thousands of houses, so the question now arises how many houses were burned in the fires which occurred in the years July 1875 to July 1877, and whether the number is so large that the minimum insurance premium necessary to be paid would be beyond the means of the people? We arrive at the opposite conclusion.

THE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED :

	In 1875-76.			In 1876-77.		
	At Fires.	Number of Buildings.	Thus houses per fire.	At Fires.	Number of Buildings.	Thus houses per fire.
1.—Accidental with known origin.	4,066	4,066		7,252	7,252	
In addition and as a consequence		13,308			16,073	
2.—Put out by the police	410			909		
Total of fires with known origin	4,476	17,374	3.90	8,161	23,325	2.97
3.—Origin unknown	1,506	1,506		2,957	2,957	
In addition and as a consequence		2,432			17,455	
4.—Put out by the police	245			762		
Total of fires with unknown origin	1,751	3,938	2.25	3,719	20,412	5.50
5.—Acts of incendiarism.	587	587		263	263	
In addition and as a consequence		201			85	
Total of incendiary fires.	587	788	1.34	263	348	1.32
Grand total	6,814	22,100	3.24	12,113	44,085	3.63

The above table shows that although the climatic conditions of the year 1876-77 were favourable to fire, there was in the average number of houses burned down in each conflagration:

- A decrease from 4 to 3 houses in the fires of known origin.
- An equal destruction of $1\frac{1}{2}$ houses by acts of incendiarism.
- Only a small increase from $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ in the total of all; thus furnishing a further proof that for the year 1876-77 there have been on the whole a better organisation of the police and improvement in the methods employed in extinguishing fires.

It is only in one item—the fires of unknown origin,—which are usually produced by the undisciplined forces of nature, and for which we had also found above the largest increase in the number of conflagrations, namely 112 per cent—that the number of houses per fire is in proportion to the very favourable conditions of this year; this ratio having increased from $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{4}$.

The final result for this year, in which there were the maximum number of conditions favouring fire, is that the total number of houses destroyed was 44,085 instead of 22,100; or had doubled. In order to be on the safe side in our calculation, at the end of the paper we shall take this maximum number of 44,085 as our yearly average.

II.—THE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY EARTHQUAKES.

In the present century we find recorded the largest number of earthquakes. Within a period of 77 years in the 19th century there were no less than 16 destructive earthquakes or one every 5 years. In this number, however, there were only four of the first magnitude (1830, 1847, 1854, 1855), or one of the first magnitude for every 19 to 20 years. Two of these latter (1854, 1855) were accompanied by very high tides.

One of the most destructive earthquakes, mentioned in the chronological report of Dr. Naumann, which extends

over twelve centuries, is that which occurred in Yedo in the year 1855 and during which there were thrown down

14,241 houses inhabited by single families
1,303 " " " different families
1,649 fire proof storehouses

making 17,193 buildings altogether. In addition to these, others were burned down in Tokio and thrown down in the Nakasendô and Tôkaidô. The number of which, for the purpose of getting the total as a round number may be taken

as 2,907

Total 20,000 buildings.

If in every tenth year such an enormous earthquake were to take place as that which occurred in Tokio in 1855—an assumption which is certainly exaggerated, since in the 1200 years included in the earthquake record for which we are indebted to Dr. Naumann, we find only a few of equal intensity—there would be only an average of 2,000 houses a year destroyed.

Now to be on the safe side we will assume that every tenth year an earthquake occurs as destructive as the great Yedo earthquake, that is, we will assume an item of 2,000 houses as annually destroyed by earthquake.

III.—THE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY GALES.

is in Japan quite inconsiderable.

No communications relative to damages by gales were to be found in the earlier police reports, but the most recent one for Tokio for the last year, is superior in this respect, that it contains information regarding the number of houses blown down. And this number was only 20 for the whole year, stormy as it was.

Dr. Hepburn, in his Meteorological Tables * for the period 1863-69 incl : for Yokohama says: "It is from the S. W. that the cyclones almost invariably come, with one and sometimes two of which we are visited yearly."

Dr. Geertz says with reference to the year 1872 †: "In Nagasaki no typhoon occurred during 1872."

Also Mr. Knipping's observations from December 1872 to December 1877 record a very limited number of typhoons. Therefore we must conclude that not more than two typhoons may be expected yearly and certainly these are not so violent that a reporter with any pretensions to veracity could write of them as did the correspondent to the New York Herald regarding the gale near Philadelphia on the 1st September 1877, that it lifted up a fat gentleman who was out walking and deposited him two English miles further on in his course; since this terrible storm only deprived eight families of their dwellings, so that you will not accuse me of want of liberality if I allow for each of the two yearly typhoons a destruction of 250 houses,—that is, if I put down 500 houses as the yearly loss from windstorms.

IV.—THE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY INUNDATIONS

can only be found vaguely estimated. That, however, inundations occur with comparative regularity may be seen from the Reports of the Ku and Ken ‡ regarding their special expenses.

These expenses were for 1873 Yen 131,990
" " 1874 141,195
" " 1875 196,082

Total.....Yen 469,267

the yearly average therefore being 156,422 Yen.

Whether the inundations are due to swollen rivers or to extraordinarily high tides cannot be determined from the reports. In the same way we cannot decide if any houses at all were destroyed. Probably we may imagine that they were river inundations, unaccompanied by the destruction of houses. But on the long expanse of coast line which Japan possesses, damages to coast villages by high tides are not at all rare. For instance only last year damage was done on the east coast from the Hakone pass to Iwakado.

* Transactions of the Asiatic Society 1874 p. 245.

† Do. Do. Vol. III Part II p. 80.

‡ Meiji roku nen Nihon Fûken Mimpi Hiyo.

" shichi " " " " "
" hachi " " " " "

As regards damage done by sea waves when accompanying earthquakes, this has already been taken into account in the statistics of the injuries caused by earthquakes; and we have now only to consider sea waves which did not follow earthquakes. In the last 90 years I find 5 great tides, not including that in 1877, or 6 altogether, that is an average of one great tide in 15 years. "In 1787 a great flood swept through the Kanto, which resulted in a terrible famine in following years, during which many persons perished. In the years 1836 and 1837 the middle provinces of Japan suffered from a like cause. Similar calamities took place in 1868 and 1869 in the provinces of Oshiu and Dewa." *

If we now assume for the above mentioned 15 years a destruction of 475 villages each containing 80 houses,—a supposition which appears to be needlessly exaggerated—we should have for the 15 years 80 times 475 or 30,000 houses, that is 2,000 houses a year, a number exactly equal to that stated above, of the houses destroyed by earthquakes.

V.—THE DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY WAR

is in Japan, in consequence of the method of fighting, greatly in excess of similar losses in Europe. A general who will cover his retreat, burns up without hesitation, the towns in his rear, for the purpose of delaying the advance of the pursuing enemy. Another burns for the purpose of cutting off supplies from the foe or to deprive him of shelter, as General Tani, the commander of the fortress of Kumamoto did to the surrounding town. Fire is also resorted to, to drive the enemy from the protection offered by houses. War is war; the main object is victory; if the Imperialists had been worsted, far greater misfortunes would have befallen Japan than the mere loss of some tens of thousands of houses. The generals did their duty as soldiers and it is not for us, who sit quietly at home in our parlours, to reproach them for it. Subsequently the government mitigates misfortunes arising from war by charitably distributing large sums of money to those in distress. During the ten years that have elapsed since the restoration, Japan has witnessed several insurrections, not to mention lesser revolts of the peasantry; namely the rebellion in Saga 1872, in Kumamoto and Hagi, 1876, and in Satsuma, 1877. That such a mighty historical revolution, as we live in here, has encountered so little armed opposition, is a subject of greater wonder than that there has been any spilling of blood. Up to this time the Government, representing the true benefit of the whole nation, has always come out victorious from these selfish provincial struggles. The perfection with which the organisation of centralized government does its work, is best seen from the fact that within two months from the outbreak of the Satsuma rebellion nine army corps were transported across the sea and put into the field. According to a trustworthy official report, hitherto unpublished, the Imperial force in Kumamoto ken amounted to 123,891 men, including the train of coolies for carrying provisions and ammunition.

The power of the central Government is steadily progressing and developing, in consequence of having accepted for its military organisation the principle of general liability to military service, which was formerly only a Prussian institution; and it is already so powerful that the rebellion of any province has not even the slightest prospect of success. The insular situation of Japan delivers it from the dangers of less favourably situated countries; it has the most friendly relations with foreign powers; and therefore is to be supposed that the destruction of houses by war will become less. But predictions based on war and peace frequently prove delusive, and it is therefore only the duty of a careful calculator to make provision for the destruction likely to be occasioned by war.

Let us then take the last rebellion of importance as a basis. The war raged chiefly in the *kens* of Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Miyazaki and on the borders of the Oita *ken*. I have the statistics of the destruction occasioned by the war in the *ken* of Kumamoto from February the 15th to June the 21st 1877.

15,119 houses were burned down
1,936 " " destroyed by shells

making a total of 17,055 houses.

* *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* 26th March 1878. See Japan Weekly Mail 1878 p. 269.

The donations of the Government to the proprietors amounted to..... *yen* 527,271 for houses burned down, and to " 72,651 " " destroyed by shells or pulled down, making a total of... " 599,922

or an average of ... " 35.17 per house.

In the other *kens* above mentioned, the war lasted till the 21st of September, and the destruction of houses seems to have been still greater than in the Kumamoto *ken*. According to the *Hochi Shinbun* (October 1877) 500,000 *yen* were placed at the disposal of the Governor of the Kagoshima *ken* to render assistance to the impoverished inhabitants and to rebuild the most necessary government buildings up to the 1st of September, when Saigo returned to Kagoshima. After the return of the rebel leader, according to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* (January 1878), an additional sum of 725,130 gold *yen* was sent to the Governor to be applied to the assistance of the unhappy people of Kagoshima, without distinction of party. The total amount of assistance, exclusive of the sums devoted to the rebuilding of Government Offices, bridges &c., may therefore be estimated at one million *yen*. A portion of this sum may have been applied in rendering assistance otherwise and to the purchase of charcoal, rice and beans, as in Kumamoto. At least a table of Statistics, compiled in the "Shamukioku," (Bureau for miscellaneous matters in the Naimusho), and which has not yet been published, gives a smaller sum, namely 657,738 *yen*, as the amount applied for the building of houses. For this sum, houses and *koyugake* (straw and wood huts), were built and indeed, more of the latter than there were formerly houses, because where formerly several families lived in one house, each one now received a hut.

There were rebuilt :

		hence at the rate of	
In Kagoshima			
town	9,630 houses for <i>yen</i> 420,148.	<i>yen</i> 42.43	p. house.
" Villages ...	2,549 " " " 76,670.	" 30.08	"
" Kagoshima			
town	16,382 huts " " 146,787.5	" 8.96	p. hut.
" Villages ...	2,774 " " 14,132.5	" 5.09	"
Total	31,335 houses & huts <i>yen</i> 657,738.	<i>yen</i> 20.99	p. house

The total of the rebuilt houses was therefore 12,179
And the total of the huts built 19,156

Total 31,335 houses & huts

If we assume that the inhabitants of every three new huts lived before the war together in one house, we arrive at the conclusion that the corresponding number of houses before the war was 6,385. In this case the total loss in Kagoshima *ken* (in the two provinces of Satsuma and Ozumi) would amount to 12,179 + 6,385 = 18,564 houses.

For the Miyazaki *ken* and the borders of the Oita *ken* we have as yet no information. Let us, in order to arrive at a round number, take the arbitrary number of 14,381 houses as destroyed there and we arrive at the total destruction of houses caused by the Satsuma rebellion at 50,000, namely :

In Kumamoto *ken* 17,055 houses.
" Kagoshima *ken* 18,564 "
" Miyazaki and Oita *ken* about 14,381 "

Total about..... 50,000 houses.

In the Satsuma insurrection there were then about 50,000 houses destroyed; certainly an earnest warning against the burning down of villages and towns, in any except the most extreme emergencies.

If we remember that besides the Satsuma rebellion during the 10 years which have past since the restoration, the Saga, Kumamoto and Hagi insurrections, as well as several incendiary revolts of the peasantry have occurred, it will not seem exaggerated if we assume that 65,000 houses were destroyed in the last ten years, that is an average of 6,500 houses per annum.

VI.—EXPENSES OF FIRE-BRIGADES AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSURANCE SYSTEM

The expenses for protection against fire as well as those for the administration of the system of insurance would naturally have to be paid from a general government tax for the insurance of buildings.

From the "Tables of Expenses that are separately paid by the people" the expenses of extinguishing the fires were in 1873 yen 77,788.00
 1874 „ 95,690.00
 1875 „ 88,544.00

in 1873-75 „ 262,022.00

or a yearly average of „ 87,341.00

Among the expenses which have been paid from the "Fukin" i.e. the taxes on theatres, *geishas*, prostitutes, &c., I find one more item amounting to yen 6,981.00 for extinguishing fires. If we assume that such an amount is an annual charge we find that the average annual annual expenses amount to yen 94,322.00. Let us further suppose that the additional care would result in augmented measures of protection and consequently augmented expenses to the extent of double the previous expenditure, and then the cost would amount to yen 188,644.00.

A government insurance system would possibly be administered here in a certain connection with the police, perhaps also partly in connection with the finance department. In countries where fire insurance is obligatory, the police frequently gives assistance to the insurance institutions.

But whoever would do the work,—police or finance department or a separate office, or several offices together—the assessment of the buildings, keeping the registers in order, collecting the premiums, estimating and paying the damages done by fire, earthquakes, inundations, gales and war, the financial operations for the investment of the money remaining, or for the payment of damages, the administration of the reserve fund, the controlling of officers, cash and books, the formation of insurance laws and insurance statistics—all would cause expense.—

In order to gain a basis for an estimate, however vague, I will assume that the activity and consequently the expenses necessary for this work would be one-tenth that of the activity and of the expenses of the police department.

The expenses for this latter for the year 1877 according to the budget, dated December 28th, 1877 of H. E. M.'s Okubo the Minister of Finance* are yen 2,001,746 00. Therefore we will estimate the expenses of a Japanese insurance institution at yen 200,000.00. But as we compute the insurance premium from the relation between the number of destroyed houses and the total number of houses in Japan we must also make "a house" the unit of our calculation for the expense of extinguishing fires and of administering an insurance department. Suppose that the government donation of yen 35.17 per house represents the average value of a Japanese house (—in Kanagawa *ken* it was yen 43.63 for the town and yen 30.08 for the villages—) we would have:

Yen 188,644.00 the cost of extinguishing = to the value of 5078 houses
 „ 200,000.00 do administration = to the value of 5384 houses

The average value of a Japanese house is probably higher than yen 35.17, but we take it so in order to be sure and increase sufficiently the number of houses which gives the basis for the calculation of the amount of the insurance premium.

VII.—THE AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENSES

expressed in houses of an institution for the collective insurance of buildings against fire, earthquakes, gales, inundations and war would be:

for damage by fire...	44,085 houses
„ „ „ earthquakes ...	2,000 „
„ „ „ gales ...	500 „
„ „ „ inundations ...	2,000 „
„ „ „ war ...	6,500 „
„ extinguishing ...	5,078 „
„ administration...	5,384 „

Total 65,547 houses.

* See Japan Times, January 12th, 1878.

VIII.—THE TOTAL OF HOUSES IN JAPAN AND THE AMOUNT OF THE INSURANCE PREMIUM.

We have now to consider what the proportion is between these 65,547 houses and the total number of houses in Japan.

Although we frequently find in newspapers the number of houses in a town or province, and in extracts from statistical returns the number of houses in the whole of Japan, yet a glance at the original documents shows that the houses are not at all counted in Japan. The Chinese character which is usually translated "house" is read *kamado* and means literally "hearth," and is an expression similar to that used by the Swiss, who count the persons, "who possess their own smoke."

The expression *kamado* does not mean house, because frequently there are several "hearths" in one house. I would translate it by "household." The manner in which the unit containing several persons is formed for statistical purposes, and which places the number of inhabitants on one side, and of houses on the other, is very different in different countries. Japan, Switzerland, Germany and France count by households; England and Italy by families; and Cisleithian Austria by "*Wohnparteien*" (resident parties). If we call all these units "households" and compare them with the number of inhabited and uninhabited houses, we find that in no country do the numbers correspond. The number of houses is everywhere less, or, in other words, there are more people in a house than in a household.

Thus, for instance,

	year.	in one household	in one house.
in France	1872	3.7 persons	4.7 persons
„ England	1871	4.5 „	5.0 „
„ Switzerland.....	1870	4.5 „	(6.5)* „
„ Cisleithian Austria	1869	4.6 „	7.1 „
„ Germany	1871	4.7 „	7.7 „
„ Japan	1875	4.7 „	? „
„ Italy.....	1871	4.9 „	5.3 „

In this table France, with its small power of reproduction, has the least number of persons in a household; the other countries show a remarkable unanimity in approaching the number of 4.7 persons per household, which is exactly the average number belonging to a *kamado* in Japan. In the average number of inhabitants in each house, Germany and Cisleithian Austria, with their large houses, let out in flats, look most unfavourably placed, England, with its houses containing only single families, shows a difference of + 0.5 and Italy only + 0.4 persons. Japan also possesses large houses let out in tenements, although not built story above story, nor, at least as far as my observation goes, very numerous. I think that by taking 0.2 persons more, or 4.9 persons in each Japanese house we arrive at a sufficiently small number of houses. A further proof of this is to be found, at least for the capital, in the fact that in certain cases where we may be sure that the number of houses and not of *kamado* is given, the number of people in one house is much less than this.

In the great fire which broke out in Tokio on the 29th November, 1876, 9,806 houses were consumed, and 30,460 persons, or 3.1 per house were made homeless.

In the fire which broke in the Senroin Temple at Asakusa on the 31st December 1876, 1,196 houses, which were inhabited by 4,063 persons, or 3.4 per house, were destroyed.

If therefore I take 4.9 persons as the average per house, I think I may be sure that the total number of houses in Japan is sufficiently reduced; that is, that the insurance premium is increased in the inverted proportion.

According to the Census taken on January 1st, 1875, Japan has 33,997,449 inhabitants, in 7,220,559 households, 4.9 persons to one house gives us 6,938,255 houses. Comparing this number and the average annual expenses, expressed as above in houses, we find that the average annual expense of 100 houses is 0.9477; that is an annual insurance premium of not quite one per cent, namely 94½ *sen*, for each 100 yen of the value of the house.

(To be continued in our next.)

* In reckoning the number of houses in Japan, there is no distinction made between inhabited and uninhabited houses; and it is similar in every other country, except Switzerland, where the number of uninhabited houses is not given. Hence the average number of persons to each Swiss house has become somewhat higher.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.

(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.

ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.

Chapter XIX. THE KOYA CLOISTERS.

EVEN the brief lull that presages the hurricane's change brings with it a sense of relief and security. Nature makes us sanguine before experience teaches us to be calculating, and it is fortunate for our happiness that it should be so; else would the sunshine of life only serve to render the gloom beyond doubly sensible.

Thus it was with Hidetsugu, when he saw himself reprieved from the disasters Goyemon's confession must have entailed. A reaction, pleasant but delusive, succeeded his painful anxiety. The robber's fortitude might have been foreseen, but his fidelity to a cause so recently espoused, and loyalty to a promise so lightly given, were sufficiently wonderful to persuade Hidetsugu that he was surrounded by the most invulnerable of all defences, a bulwark of faithful hearts. Hence the hum and tramp of the multitudes, as the flocked home from the place of execution, telling each other in whispers of the horrors they had witnessed, sounded to his ears like a vast voice of gratulation, and in the fullness of his relief he was almost glad that the failure of his parricidal designs had saved him from dreading the curse of heaven.

With reflection, however, came disquiet. The conditions that had driven him to extreme action remained unchanged, and were even more than ever embarrassing, for though the tabard accusation had not been proved, it remained none the less unrefuted.

While deliberating and advising with Bansaku and a few other devoted servants on the morning after Goyemon's death, the Minister was summoned to receive an embassy from Fushimi. The envoys were Ishida, Nagatsuka, Masuda and Tokuzenin, Councillors of state. Hidetsugu and Ishida had now recognized each other as deadly enemies, but their hostility only manifested itself at this interview in an excessive interchange of courtesies. The Minister, however, divining from the composition of the embassy that his fate was finally in the balance, and nerved by the presence of his hated foe, received the envoys' message with unflinching calm.

It was delivered by Tokuzenin. The Regent had, he said, received indisputable proof of the Prime Minister's treasonable designs, and finding it impossible to leave him any longer in the exercise of his high functions, desired that he should immediately resign his office, leave the Palace of Pleasure and retire to the cloister in the mountains of Koya.

Plainly this sentence was framed so that its vagueness might render appeal difficult. Hidetsugu did not fail to note the fact, but he found it impossible to reconcile it with the circumstance that the embassy had come unprovided with the means of enforcing the orders it conveyed. What was he to understand? Either that Taiko, while accusing him of treason, confided in his obedience, or that this message was a mere threat. The latter hypothesis was untenable; the former, inexplicable. He applied to the envoys themselves for elucidation.

Tokuzenin replied that he believed the Regent had no real intention of disgracing his son, but that his whole object was to elicit some proof which might once and for all, silence slander. Such a proof would be afforded, for example, if on receipt of this harsh command, the Minister were to visit Fushimi in person, and by placing himself unreservedly in the Regent's power, declare at once his own innocence and his confidence in Taiko's justice.

If this was a plot, it was subtly conceived; if honest advice, its rejection was difficult.

Hidetsugu, knowing that his own and many of his vassals' lives depended on his decision, withdrew to consult those whose counsels would at least be faithful. They were four: Shirai, Earl of Bingo, Kumagaya, Bansaku and Sir Kimura.

In the vicinity of real peril, brave men are always composed. It would have been difficult to believe that the deliberation which now took place had reference to anything of more than passing interest. The Minister, in a few composed words, describing the Regent's message, his own perplexity and the envoys' advice, invited his four friends to assist him with their counsels.

Shirai, Earl of Bingo, spoke first. He thought that two of the four should go to Fushimi, declare their master's in-

nocence, and support their statement by suicide. If their mission failed, the other two, assembling all the available troops, should lead them against Taiko, and in the event of defeat, the survivors should set fire to the Palace of Pleasure and die there with their master.

Kumagaya, while approving of resistance, opposed this plan as too precipitate and because it would involve bloodshed in the neighbourhood of the Emperor's palace. He counselled retreat to the castle of Sakamoto, and afterwards, either negotiation or defiance.

It was now Bansaku's turn to advise. Hidetsugu almost anticipated his views, for he knew that Goyemon's inhuman punishment had excited not only remorse but disaffection in the comptroller's heart. "If the Regent desired to discriminate between truth and falsehood," he said, "your Excellency's traducers would long ago have been silenced. Let us no longer expose ourselves to the disgrace of fruitless appeal; but since your Excellency's arch-enemies are here now in our power, let us commence by punishing their treachery, and then, marching to Fushimi after nightfall, fire it and conquer, or die sword in hand. Or, if we find our force insufficient to attack, let us get possession of the Emperor's person, carry him to this palace and then defy Taiko here."

This programme was bold, and commended itself particularly in one respect: its point of departure was Ishida Mitsunari's death. This deed once achieved, let the sequel be what it might, the bitter possibility of Chika's falling into the Baron's hands would be finally averted. But Hidetsugu's inclinations, though not strong enough to develop independent resolution, found nothing cognate in any of these suggestions. Still vacillating, he appealed to Sir Kimura, no longer a monitor, but an ally; for, having rejected the alternative of official complaint, Sir Kimura had now no choice but to die with the man he had failed either to save or to denounce.

"It seems to me," said this faithful man, "that we have forgotten who our opponent is. With Taiko, to threaten is to strike. If the message carried by the embassy be a true statement of His Highness' intentions, the troops from Fushimi are already marching upon the Palace of Pleasure. We have no time either to anticipate or oppose. Shall we choose then instant suicide—or instant flight? Neither, I think, since either would at present be an admission of guilt. Let us rather adopt the course suggested by the envoys. It cannot fail to restore the Regent's confidence, and will not, under any circumstances, deprive us of a soldier's last refuge—death."

Hidetsugu recognized in this proposal a definition of his own vague purpose. He dismissed the envoys, and in a few minutes followed them, as he thought, to Fushimi. To increase the amicable aspect of his visit, he chose to travel by palanquin, rather than on horseback, and contented himself with an escort of thirty footmen. Bansaku and all the Minister's favourite attendants, however, without order or explanation, took their places among this escort, and the paucity of its numbers was rendered doubly palpable by the multitude of well-wishers that watched its departure from the palace gates. The sanguine indolence of Hidetsugu's nature prevented him from observing, or disposed him not to observe, such tokens of his vassals' instinctive disquiet as the assortment of armour, the examination of weapons and the saddling of horses. Nevertheless, he set out with a feeling that he did not care to analyze: it might have been the offspring of uncertainty, it might have been the herald of farewell.

A man journeying in those days from the Palace of Pleasure to Fushimi, had the choice of two routes: he might either follow the "Avenue of the thousand Pines" to the southern limit of the capital, and then, crossing the river, travel due east by the Misumi Marsh; or if he preferred the city ways, he might leave the Pine Avenue, and passing by one of the main streets to the eastern suburb, strike thence due south to Fushimi. So far as distance was concerned, both routes were alike. It was simply a question of travelling south and east, or east and south, for the lines of all the principal streets and roads of Kiyoto being directed upon some two of the cardinal points, and Fushimi lying south-east of the Palace of Pleasure, no straight path connected the two places. The Minister however, and indeed most noblemen or officials, generally adopted the former route, as being the less frequented, and no doubt Hidetsugu would have done so on this occasion also, had not his choice been influenced by an exceptional consideration. If he followed the Pine Avenue through its entire length, he would pass almost within sight

of Goyemon's place of execution. He therefore directed his escort to proceed by the city, happily ignorant of the momentous issues contingent on this trifling preference.

He traversed the town, and crossing the river, turned into the straight road to Fushimi without mischance, but while passing the fane of the "Colossal Budha," his followers became conscious of a strange stir and turmoil that seemed to be borne to them with more and more distinctness from the south and west. It was a confused medley of noises, such as might succeed an alarm of fire or precede an outbreak of the people, but dominated by a sound full of disturbing suggestions—the clatter of innumerable horses' hoofs.

A large body of cavalry was evidently approaching from the direction of Fushimi, and none thought of doubting that its destination was the Castle of Pleasure. To encounter this force *en route* signified one of two things:—ignominious surrender, or death at the hands of the common soldiery. The escort halted involuntarily, and Hidetsugu, raising the blind of his palanquin, beckoned Bansaku to his side.

For an instant, the two men looked and listened in silence. The distant tumult, no longer confused by the sounds of their own progress, seemed to have suddenly grown nearer and more intense.

"Bansaku," said the Minister, at last, in a low tone, "that I did not follow your advice is the chief regret of the few moments I have still to live." Then raising his voice so that his words addressed themselves to all his followers, he asked:—"Has no one any useful counsel to offer while we have still time to consider the manner of our deaths?"

This question elicited no immediate reply, but the main part of the escort, loosening their swords or uncasing their spears as they closed together in front of the palanquin, tacitly evidenced their own determination as well as the imminence of the approaching peril. Bansaku, observing this movement, which threatened to substitute temerity for deliberation, hastened to interpose.

"The shrine of Tofuku is but a few furlongs distant, your Excellency," he said. "Let us die there by our own hands as becomes gentlemen, rather than wait here to encounter the weapons of ignoble subalterns."

But even while admitting the wisdom of this proposition, Hidetsugu did not accept it. His sensuous nature revolted at the idea of a quiet, unostentatious death; a death deprived of every retributive adjunct, and unpreceded by any expression of affection or farewell. By employing expedition, there might still be time to reach the Palace of Pleasure before the troops from Fushimi, which were as yet more than a mile distant. He therefore signified his intention of retracing his steps.

Scarcely, however, had the escort reformed and the bearers turned the palanquin, when a man-at-arms came running towards them from the bridge. His head was gashed by a sword-cut, and his exhaustion almost rendered him incapable of conveying his intelligence, which was that shortly after the Minister's departure, the palace had been seized and was now held by some four thousand of the Regent's horsemen.

If the Minister had followed the usual route by the Pine Avenue, he must have perceived the approach of these troops and in all probability could have anticipated them. Goyemon's death, the first-fruits of his unnatural crime, had thus become the agent of his punishment.

Nothing was bitter to him at that moment, than the consciousness that he had been duped to the last by the subtle Ishida, for plainly the four Councillors' specious words had only been a ruse to inveigle him from the palace, and thus deprive its garrison of the power to resist. The first flash of disappointed rage revealed to him the design that had induced him to retrace his steps, rather than adopt Bansaku's suggestion. Had he succeeded in returning to the palace, death should have secured Chika's fidelity, and the magnificence among which he had lived, fed the flame of his funeral pyre.

But now! A scanty band of two score followers, without horses, without armour, their only asylum held by four thousand enemies and the onset of perhaps as many more thundering every moment nearer and nearer. "Oh! that I were mounted and armed," cried Hidetsugu passionately. "Could I but strike one blow before these lying plotters have compassed their ends!"

At that instant, as though in answer to his exclamation, the sound of horses' feet was heard on the bridge, and a troop of cavalry rode up, headed by the Councillor Masuda.

The Minister's escort formed hastily between their master

and this new danger, but Masuda, halting his men at a little distance, dismounted from his horse, and advancing, knelt on the road before Hidetsugu's palanquin.

Seeing, as he thought, one of the chiefs of his foes kneeling within arm's length, Hidetsugu seized his sword and bent forwards as though about to strike. A word or a sign, and Masuda Nagamori's head would have rolled in the dust. The Councillor must have known his danger, yet he did not abridge his reverence or change his position of obeisance.

"Your Excellency's palace," he said, after a moment's pause; "has been seized in pursuance of an order unknown to me when I had the honour of an interview with you this morning. It is now guarded by the Regent's cavalry, of whom a second body, two thousand strong, has, I believe, left Fushimi and is approaching by this route. Retreat or advance is therefore alike impossible with your small force, and I have come to offer you the assistance of my own soldiers. They are only four hundred in number, but will be sufficient to escort your Excellency to a place of safety, where you can await the Regent's instructions."

If this also were a plot, what was its motive? Betrayed by Masuda's soldiers or sabred by the Regent's cavalry, the end was the same, though the means might be different. While Hidetsugu debated, the Councillor, still on his knees, tacitly offered this risk of his life as an irrefragable demonstration of his sincerity.

Meanwhile the space that permitted election was growing shorter and shorter, in proportion as the tramp of the cavalry sounded nearer and nearer. Hidetsugu, seeking some escape from indecision in his followers' department, and finding that even Bansaku himself sedulously avoided his enquiring gaze, understood that this reserve signified approval of Masuda's advice, embarrassed by reluctance to acknowledge the necessity of retreat.

"Betrayed as I have been, I cannot as yet determine whether your present action deserves gratitude or execration, Masuda," he said with a bitter laugh, "but whatever your purpose may be, know that, if I seem to seek a little respite by adopting your counsels, it is not because I value my life more than dew or dust, but because I would fain defer my death till truth shall have somewhat marred my traducers' triumph."

With these words, addressed as much to his reputation as to the Councillor, he descended from his palanquin, and mounting Masuda's horse, set off at full speed for the cloisters on Mount Koya. Beside him rode five of those that had followed him that morning from the Palace of Pleasure: Sasabe Earl of Awadz, the comptroller Bansaku, and the pages Yamamoto, Yamada and Risseido, while before and behind Masuda's cavalry at once protected and imprisoned him.

Their route led them within a few miles of Fushimi, and the little party closed instinctively about their master, each time some opening in the hills or woods added the towers of the Regent's castle to the ever-widening landscape. But hamlet, valley, ford and ravine separated them gradually from the possibility of pursuit or ambush, and when nightfall compelled them to exchange the precipitancy of flight for the deliberation of travel, the memory of the things they had left began to be fraught with regret, rather than apprehension; for they knew that with whatever suffering or mischance the future might be pregnant, all hope of return to the places of pleasure and the fellowship of affection had lapsed irrevocably into the darkness now closing about them.

They made no halt by the way, except such as was necessary to refresh their horses, and sunset found them the following evening but a few furlongs distant from the foot of the Diamond Peak and its city of cloisters. The abbot and more than five thousand friars, all dressed in white and each carrying a lantern, knelt with bowed heads on either side of the road to receive their illustrious visitor, and every step that Hidetsugu advanced through this long lane of cenobites seemed to place a distance, more and more sensible, between himself and the world in which he had played so conspicuous a part.

He was conducted by the abbot to the guests' room in the principal cloister—an apartment almost rudely simple in its construction and furniture, but not lacking interest of scenery or circumstance. For, on the south, a stream, bordered by willows and wild azaleas, crept away from the steep slopes of a mountain, where stunted pines lapsed year by year into leafless decrepitude, and rugged rocks pushed their mossy heads into the spray of a cataract that tumbled towards a lotus lake

below; while on the west, across a lattice of bowing bamboos, the eye discerned Kobodaishi's sepulchre, and around it the graves of many a generation of ascetics, whose uneventful lives had drifted quietly into the everlasting slumber their devotions contemplated. The abbot, a meagre, wrinkled old man, who for more than threescore years had tasted neither fish nor flesh, and whose nervous fingers, from long habit, never ceased to tell real or imaginary beads, sought in vain, by prolonging his humble obeisance, to hide the tears that welled up from his compassion at the aspect of Hidetsugu's weariness and dejection, and Hidetsugu himself found something so moving in the prophetic sympathy of this venerable anchorite, that for a moment he could not command words to address him.

"Father," he said at last, "you, to whom time is but a passage to the life beyond the grave, will teach me how to take my leave worthily of things that have been too dear to be easily forgotten. With this view I have sought your cloister; for I have but a few days, perhaps but a few hours to remain on earth, and I hope that the cruel power to which I have fallen a victim will not deter you from affording me your charitable offices after death."

"Your Excellency," answered the abbot, raising his tearful face, "if by any chance the end you foresee should overtake you here, whatever light our prayers may summon shall surely guide you through the shadows of the grave. But it cannot be that, instead of an asylum, you should find a tomb among our cloisters. Our community numbers more than seven thousand souls, and for more than seven hundred years the hand of heaven alone has measured the span of human or animal life within these precincts. The gods who for so many centuries have received our incense and our prayers, will now give strength to our voices, united in your Excellency's behalf, and accord us the infinite happiness of reconciling you with your august father."

Hidetsugu shook his head sadly. "Even were there any hope in your proposition, father," he replied, "I should not entertain it. I come here, to take leave of the world, not to seek a means of returning to it; for though I have given much love, I have gained but scant fidelity in return. Why should I seek to live when nothing remains to live for?"

"Your Excellency," answered the abbot, "hope is only lost by ceasing to hope, and happiness by inability to wait. The withered leaf, however long it has been tossed over waste and wold, finds in some land a sheltered nook where rains and dews may dissolve it into nurture for another bud. The stream that loses half its volume among jagged rocks and in sunless caverns, creeps quietly at last among roots of the fragrant lotus and brilliant iris, and the tears that have fallen through all ages, swelling the stream upon which our prayers are borne to the feet of the Gods, are yet a solace without which human hearts would be charred and wasted by the fire of affliction even as the parched upland is cracked by the summer drought. The page of life is a lesson of hope and the ends of all things are types of mercy."

"Father," replied Hidetsugu, "your philosophy is impossible to me on this side of the grave. In your own words, I have ceased to hope, and lost the ability to wait. I have indeed," he continued, and his voice trembled as he spoke, "found life under some aspects beautiful and full of sweetness; but like a false friend, its fellowship has brought me only shame and sorrow. It can scarcely have been a keener grief than mine that interpreted the sounds of the sea to the exile Michizane, when he said:—

"The ripple's plash, the billow's roar,

"The varied voices of the main,

"Through all their tones sing one refrain,

"A requiem for the shattered shore."

"And as for me, whether the song of the birds and the whisper of the winds come to mock my misery or remind me of my happiness, I am determined to remain no longer among things that only serve to awaken painful memories. At day-break I will ask you to perform for me the rites of separation from the world. Until then, I only desire to be left undisturbed."

The old abbot was very capable of sympathizing with this request and the feeling that dictated it. He himself had not been a stranger to that most poignant, most anguished of regrets which visits a neophyte of the creed inculcating eternal annihilation, when he first realizes the fact that neither memory of this beautiful world, nor perception of the love that makes life elysian, shall ever visit the endless, infinite lapse of dreary nothingness awaiting him hereafter. Understand-

ing therefore, that despite his pretended resignation, Hidetsugu had not yet summoned courage to bid farewell finally to the past, he left him to gather what comfort he might from communion with the shadows of forfeited power and lost love, and applied to Bansaku and the Earl of Awadz, in the hope that their influence might induce Hidetsugu to accept the intercession of the cenobites.

If it were true that the shrines of Koya had really been indicated by Taiko himself as a retreat for the Minister, their selection could only bear the interpretation of a desire to save Hidetsugu, and the consummation of that desire must necessarily be achieved by the priest's interference. Not to interfere therefore, would be at once to disobey the merciful teachings of their religion and to defeat the Regent's clement designs. The Minister's followers could not doubt the justice of these views, for they found it incredible that Taiko should have wantonly determined to defile, by a deed of blood, the purity of a fane to which life was preeminently sacred. Bansaku and the Earl, therefore, willingly undertook to urge the adoption of the abbot's counsels.

But Hidetsugu obstinately refused to permit any action that might be construed into an acknowledgment of guilt. The thought that he had been condemned unheard was no small solace to his morbid feelings, and since in his heart he believed that Taiko, desiring his death least of all things, looked confidently for some demonstration of submission to justify clemency, he determined, as far as might be, to defeat this intention, and afford the Regent no pretext for abandoning a course, that all the nation must eventually regard as unjust. It was characteristic of the man that, while he thus risked his life to gratify a momentary feeling of umbrage, he took no account of his followers' fate. In a mind so entirely devoid of just equipoise, the slightest sense of injury sufficed to overbalance every consciousness of guilt or feeling of gratitude, so that not only were all his old crimes forgotten, but his distraught fancy construed the very fact, that any should be passive sharers of his suffering, into a tacit acquiescence in the legality of his punishment. So far, therefore, from attempting to evade the end, he prepared to invest it with all possible solemnity of ceremony and observance.

(To be concluded in our next.)

EXTRACT.

THE WRECK OF THE MEIKONG.

(From the Bombay Gazette March 22.)

[The following article from an Indian contemporary, will be read here with a certain amount of interest by friends of the passengers concerned.]

THE passengers by the Messageries steamer the *Meikong*, who escaped with their bare lives from the wreck of that vessel on the African coast last June, having, by this time, overcome the feeling of gratitude for their personal deliverance, begin to think they should look after their baggage. This we gather from a letter by "A Passenger" that appeared in our Tuesday's paper. The writer calls upon his fellow passengers to join him in suing the "Messageries Maritimes" Company in the High Court of Calcutta in the hope of recovering compensation for the personal baggage and valuables lost by them near Cape Guardafui. From the vantage ground of our columns this courageous litigant calls on his fellow-sufferers, now scattered in the uttermost parts of the earth—even in far Scotland and Ireland—to make common cause and sue the owners of the unlucky *Meikong* for damages. Calcutta, being the place where the contract for passage and freight would be made, is, we presume, the proper jurisdiction in which redress can be granted. Doubtless, before proceeding to enter an action the passengers or their friends will be well-advised, both as to the jurisdiction of the Court and the form that the suit should take. It is not likely that they can prove breach of contract, merely because the vessel was wrecked. It was never contended, so far as we remember, that the errors of the French captain in navigation were so obvious and culpable as to render him or the Company liable for direct damages. Those convenient phrases "act of God" and "peril of the sea" will have to serve their turn until ships, crews, and the lighting of dangers are much nearer perfection than at present. Meantime the shipmaster must have such benefit of the doubt as is implied in the use of those indefinite terms.

If the *Meikong* passengers are to succeed, their action must be based on circumstances that occurred subsequent to the wreck.

Their case may be rested on the neglect or *laches* of the captain or agents of the owner at the time when the baggage and valuables of the passengers could have been recovered. It is not for us to express an opinion as to whether such neglect can, after this lapse of time, be proved; or, if proved, whether the legal effect would be to carry damages. Whilst, however, disavowing any pre-judgment in favour of the passengers' case, we are able, from entirely independent testimony, to speak, in outline, of what appears to have been *insouciance* or grave misjudgment on the part of those who should have put forth their utmost exertions for salvage of the Meikong's cargo and the passengers' effects. It appears that after the rescue of the ship's company and their transference to Aden by dint of the exertions and discretion of the captain and officers of the *Glenartney*, the captain of the *Meikong*, according to the proper procedure, made his report to the French Consul at Aden. Probably this report would also be made to the British Resident and the Aden Harbour Master. This must have been so, for we have a tolerably clear recollection of those authorities having offered, to the French captain and Consul, to place a steamer at their disposal, which might be sent to the scene of the wreck—obviously for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the cargo and taking measures for salvage.

If the fact of this offer having been made can be established, it will be an important element in the passengers' case. What course was taken on receipt of the offer is not quite clear. One step that was then adopted strikes us, as it did when it was reported at the time, as very unusual, and, as the event proved, very ill advised. The captain of the *Meikong* and the Consul are said to have applied to the ship captains then in Aden harbour to hold a sort of council to assist them in deciding whether to accept the steamer and make arrangements for a salvage expedition. One would like very much to have the minutes of that informal court of skippers, and especially to have a verbatim report of the sentiments expressed by the dissentients. The result of having called in these chance councillors in aid of the captain and Consul—who, we suppose, were the only persons responsible for the decision—was, that the offer of a steamer made by the Aden authorities was declined. The captain of the *Meikong* was said to be anxious to get home to report himself and the disaster to his superiors. Anyhow, he shortly turned his back on Aden and left the flotsam and jetsam of the ship to its fate.

As may be readily supposed, the opportunity thus afforded was not neglected by more adventurous spirits. The Somalis, who had appropriated a good many of the lighter portions of the passengers' effects before the shipwrecked people left, proved themselves to be very expert and effective salvors. Everything having been abandoned, these untutored Africans can scarcely be blamed for securing as much as they could of these spoils of Europe and Asia thus thrown in their way. And lest these unsophisticated people should be too much perplexed as to how to dispose of their treasures, certain persons of "European extraction" appear to have proceeded from Aden with a view of turning an honest penny out of the affair. We heard of a certain Vice-Consul having set up his flag on the beach near Cape Guardafui; and, we dare say, he took a very handsome haul. Whether he secured any considerable portion of the passengers' effects is doubtful, for the valuable cargo of the ship offered more tempting and more readily meritable prize. But this part of the history remains in much obscurity. Some information on these points would be obtained by the commander of the *Kuanyung*, the Bombay Government's steamer which was sent down the same coast a few weeks later to report upon and secure what could be saved from the wreck of the B.I.S.N. steamer *Cashmere*, which also fell a victim to the perils of that neglected coast. That information should be still available and may prove serviceable to the passengers of the *Meikong*, though the *Kuanyung* had no instructions concerning that vessel or its cargo.

Whilst the losses of the passengers by the French steamer, being personal and direct, may serve more readily to excite sympathy, we have the always felt at far more public interest pertained to the question of *Meikong's* cargo and its abandonment. It may be too late now to go into that subject; for, as it was the underwriters' business, it was nobody's business. Underwriters seem to be a remarkably incohesive class. They are ever more bent on competition than co-operation; hence a vast amount of preventable loss and waste, ever and anon, takes place all over the world's coasts. We have reason to believe that the neglect and abandonment of the *Meikong's* peculiarly valuable cargo affords a striking instance of this wanton waste.

The loss of that vessel and that of the *Cashmere* may be considered to have settled the question as to the necessity of the Guardafui straits being properly lighted; but there remains to be decided—when and how? We now feel in a palpable shape the

grievous impolicy of the abandonment of the Somali coast to the impecunious and impracticable Egyptians. Not even a plausible excuse has been given by the British Foreign Office for this foolish concession, which was too weakly concurred in by the remote and short-sighted Simla bureau. Had there been no Egyptians in question, the funds for surveying, buoying and lighting the straits and coasts between Socotra and the African mainland could now easily have been subscribed by the maritime nations under the direction of those experienced and competent authorities the elder brethren of the British Trinity House. As the Khedive is bankrupt this course may still have to be taken; but as we have abandoned the Somalis and their Arab Sheiks to the tender mercies of Pharaoh, we therewith lose all the accessory and concomitant advantages that we should have secured through control and co-operation of those tribes. This additional assistance and security could easily have been attained through our Resident at Aden. Now, as the detested Egyptians are alone responsible, the Somalis will think themselves justified in carrying on the trade of wreckers and self-appointed salvors whenever they get a chance.

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I. T. FARR,
Acting Superintendent.

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, May 1st, 1878.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	" 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES.

(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 13
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 22
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

*. The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

*. No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

*. Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

*. Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 6	May 14		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 15	May 23	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Mar. 29	" 14		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	" 22	July 15	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	Apr. 5	" 22		M. M. Co.'s -	London	May 15	July 8	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	May 2			P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco			
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	Apr. 20	" 11		O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	" 19		

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
May 5	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	May 2	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 6	Madras	Richardson	Brit. str.	1,079	London	Feb. 19	General	Findlay, Rich'dson & Co.
" 7	Belle Morse	Hutchins	Am. ship	1,307	Nagasaki	"	Coals	P. M. Co.
" 7	Vsodnick	Novosilsky	Russ. corvette	1,069	Nagasaki	" 4		
" 8	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	1,133	Hakodate	" 1	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 9	Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,100	Shanghai & ports	"	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 9	Haydamak	Tirtoff	Russ. corvette	896	Nagasaki	"		
" 9	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Kobe	" 7	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Madras*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Hughes.

Per Jap. str. *Sumida-Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. Anderson, J. Walter, D. Hay, Hodnett, and Bonger.

Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru* from Shanghai ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Dave Carsod, Miss Etta, Revd. and Mrs. Curtis, Miss W. E. Eddy, Sir J. Campbell Brown, Revd. O. H. Gulick, Dr. Laning, Mr. and Mrs. Norville, Revd. and Mrs. Learned, Mr. and Mrs. St. George, and child, Mr. and Mrs. Takenouchi, Revd. J. H. Quimby, Revd. A. H. Morris, Dr. A. H. Adams, Messrs. Stewart, Ferrell, Wurai, Warner, Paul Corbonier, J. Van Stapper, C. Wiggins, J. C. Ellis, Arnold, Iwasaki, Tsuruda, Mason, and Hugh J. Foss in the cabin; and 8 Chinese, and 283 Japanese in the steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Lader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Haze," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM SINGAPORE:—"Coulmakyle" Dec. 14 from London for Yokohama.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM TABLE BAY:—"Fair Leader," Jan. 19.

FROM ANJER:—"Fair Leader," Mar. 29.

FROM HONGKONG:—"Tibre," May 4; "Malacca," May 6.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"Belgie," Apr. 20; "City of Tokio," May 2.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," "Bon Accord," S. S. "Egean," S. S. "Imbat," "Berwickshire."
At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. May 14th; Hongkong M. M. str. May 8th; America O. & O. str. May 11th; P. M. str. May 22nd; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. May 14th.

CARGO:—Per Jap. str. *Kokonoye-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, yen 5,000.00.

REPORTS:—The British steamer *Madras* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 27th April with 2 cabin passengers. Experienced strong winds with very thick weather throughout.

The H. I. R. M. ship *Vsodnick* reports:—Left Nagasaki at 5 a.m., on the 4th May. Had pleasant weather throughout, passed several sailing vessels bound to the Southward, off Rock Island. H. I. R. M. ship *Haydamak* was to leave Nagasaki at 2 p.m. on the 4th instant, also for this port direct.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
May 3	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Kobe	May 5	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 4	China	Berry	Am. str.	3,836	San Francisco	"	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 4	Angusta	Hassampfung	Ger. corvette	1,400	Shanghai	"		
" 4	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,300	Hakodate & Niigata	"	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 6	Christine	Wildfang	Ger. barq.	540	Hakodate	"	General	P. Bohm.
" 6	Omba	Hall	Brit. ship	836	Kobe	"	General	Cornes & Co.
" 7	Henry A. Litchfield	Drummond	Am. barq.	638	Kobe	"	General	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 7	Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Jap. str.	1,870	Shanghai & ports	" 15	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 8	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,809	Hongkong	" 15	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 8	Cosmeo	Dumas Vence	Frch. corvette	1,900	Kobe	"		
" 9	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	Hongkong	"	Mails and general	P. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Ito, Mrs. David and child, Mr. and Mrs. Oshima, Lieutenant-Colonel Yasuda, Miss Taki, Miss Oshima, Messrs. Shimadzu Tadayoshi, H. Shimadzu, Mebida, Ninoyoshi, Kihara, Shinkine, Tomita, fumida, Matsudaira, Nakagawa, J. Pestonjee, Osu, Furuchi, Senoda, Krien, Arima, Okubo, Tauda, Hashimoto, Inoue, Chiya, Iwanaga, and Midzuno.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Rickett, and 5 children, Mrs. H. Wilson, Mrs. Pearson, Miss Lentz, Captain Wise, R.N., Lieutenants McGrath, and Hutching, Messrs. Hepworth, R. Wise, H. McMillon, C. Fossit, J. Parker, G. C. Pearson, C. L. Hyde, E. F. Kilby, S. Ito, and 49 crew of *Kongo*, and 5 on deck.

Per Am. str. *China* for San Francisco:—Captain A. M. Bisbee, Lieutenant J. E. Noel, U.S.N., Dr. Coles, U.S.N., Mrs. Coles, Mrs. Stanwood, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Birch, Miss Ellis, Capt. and Mrs. F. Dunn, Messrs. W. B. Shaw, F. E. Woodruff, James Clark, Sulias Advian, Captain Von Eisendecker, German Minister, H. H. Ellis, and T. A. Singleton in cabin; and 5 Europeans in steerage.

LOADING:—*Volga*, for Hongkong and Europe, May 15th.—M. M. Co.

Saikio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, May 15th.—M. B. M. Co.

Johann Wickhorst, for London, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffler & Co.

Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

City of Peking, for San Francisco, June 2nd.—P. M. Co.

Hiogo Maru, for Hakodate, May 12th; *Kokonoye Maru*, for Hakodate, May 13th.—M. B. M. Co.

Oceanic, for San Francisco.—May 19th O. & O. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. May 22nd; for Hongkong M. M. str. May 15th; for America P. M. str. June 2nd; O. & O. str. May 19th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. May 15th; for Hakodate M. B. M. str. May 15th.

CARGO:—Per S. S. *Chinn* for San Francisco:—For San Francisco, 2,042 packages Tea; for New York, 2,876 packages Tea; for Chicago, 1,163 packages Tea; for Boston, 244 packages Tea; for Salt Lake City, 288 packages Tea; for C. & S. America, 14 packages Tea; and for New York, 499 bales Silk.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* for Shanghai:—Treasure, \$5,100.00.

Per Brit. str. *Malacca* for Hongkong:—Silk for London, 32 bales.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Gaelic	Kidley	British steamer	2,756	Hongkong	April 29	O. & O. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Japanese steamer	899	Hakodate	May 8	M. B. M. Co.	Hakodate.
Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Japanese steamer	1,133	Shanghai & ports	May 9		Hakodate.
Madras	Richardson	British Steamer	1,079	London	May 6	Frindly, Rich'ds'n & Co.	
Meiji Maru	Peters	Japanese steamer	1,010	Cruise	Mar. 28	Lighthouse Department	
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,146	Kobe	May 9	M. B. M. Co.	Sh'ghai and ports.
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	496	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	May 5	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	April 25	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
SAILING SHIP.							
August	Reis	German brig	208	Hamburg	April 30	Simon, Evers & Co.	
Belle Morse	Hutchins	American ship	1,307	Nagasaki	May 7	P. M. Co.	
Ching Too	Baikie	British schooner	307	Takao	April 30	Chinese	
Coldinghame	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Glengaber	Gray	British barque	658	Antwerp		L. Kniffier & Co.	
Johan Irgens	Mortensen	N'rwegian barque	775	N'wca'le n.s.w	April 15	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	H'm'b'g v'ä K'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffier & Co.	London.
John Potts	McPherson	British barque	373	Takao	April 7	Jardine Matheson & Co.	
Laira	Trevina	British barque	498	London	April 18	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newc'tle n.s.w.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Mount Washington	Perkins	American ship	1,217	Batavia	Mar. 30	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboyna	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Oceanic	Affleck	British barque	320	Takao	April 18	Netherlands Trading Co.	
Sumner R. Mead	Dixon	American ship	1,117	New York	April 5	C. & J. Trading Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Juno	8 ...	2,216 ...	Corvette	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel	4 ...	462 ...	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
JAPANESE—Kongo	9 ...	1,800 ...	Corvette	Captain Webb, R. N.
RUSSIAN—Boyan	8 ...	2,000 ...	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Vladnick	8 ...	1,069 ...	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.
RUSSIAN—Hadamak	8 ...	1,100 ...	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.

ADVERTISEMENT.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$1,000,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—F. D. Sassoon, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—WM. H. FORBES, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., H. L. Dalrymple, Esq., H. Hoppius, Esq., Hon. W. Keewick, Adam Lmd. Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., W. S. Young.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillips, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.
E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila, Singapore.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENT.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Malala.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " "	6 "	1	" "
" " "	3 "	¾	" "
" " "	1 "	¾	" "
" " "	10 days	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement, First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff, First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hioho.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 20.]

May 18, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

OKUBO TOSHIMITCHI.

DEATH,—sudden, violent, bloody,—freezes into silent horror the jocund life of Spring. Passing, in the dewy morning, to his daily labour, through May-blooms fluttering down through the warm, scented air, messengers to tell the earth of the promises of Summer's fruits;—pondering schemes for developing his country's latent wealth, for teaching her sons how best to utilize their toil;—unheeding the carol of the up-springing lark, rejoicing in the simple joy of living, as he rose, quivering, into the blue heaven;—annoting the pair of gay, light-hearted students whom he passes on the road, one threatening the other with no more deadly weapon than a branch of blossoming pear, Okubo Toshimitchi, Minister of the Interior, the strongest pillar of the Emperor's throne, the virtual leader of the Cabinet, and one of the truest patriots this ancient Empire has ever produced,—suddenly falls, under the blows of assassins' swords,—his life's work incomplete, its reward unreaped, his fame but half-achieved. That branch of blossom hides a blade—flung into the dust, it gives the signal to an ambushed band of crouching, eager foes. There is an exultant yell, a fierce rush, the flash of sabres in the morning sun, the mad gallop for a score of yards of a wounded horse, and then—struggling up through the wreck of an overturned carriage, a great statesman rises into the grasp of vulgar murderers, and—for him—the rest is silence. *Namu Amida Butsu!*

Japan has to mourn, to-day, one of the worthiest of her sons. Born in Kagoshima in 1836, Okubo Toshimitchi Ichizo was the son of Okubo Jiyemon, a *Shizoku* of the Satsuma clan. Early distinguished for his intelligence and capacity among the 'jeunesse dorée' of Satsuma, he was, while yet a boy, attached to the personal staff of his Prince; and pursuing diligently, during his service, the studies which he loved, he soon became a proficient in Chinese literature, as well as in the ordinary branches of education of a Japanese gentleman. His ability attracted attention, and at the age of twenty, he was appointed to a post in the Finance bureau of his native province.

During the eventful years which followed the signature of the Foreign Treaties, Okubo appears to have so distinguished himself as to win the regard and respect of many prominent men in the Court of Kiyoto and of several of the leaders of the other Southern clans, for we find him, in 1868, a prominent member of the coalition of patriots who overturned the usurping dynasty of Tokugawa, and restored the Mikado to his ancient power. He accompanied Saigo to Chosiu, and arranged with the leading men of that province the alliance with Satsuma, Tosa, and other clans which eventuated in the Restoration.

In March 1868, the Tokugawa dynasty having been overthrown, and a new system of government inaugurated, Okubo was appointed, with five others, an under-secretary of the important Department to which was com-

mitted the care of the administration of Home Affairs; his nominal chiefs being Okimachi Sanjosaki no Dainagon, Tokudaiji Chiunagon and the Daimios of Tosa and Echizen; and it was he who suggested the important move of transferring the seat of power from Kiyoto and constituting Yedo the metropolis, under the new name of Tôkiô, the 'eastern capital.' In July he was appointed *Sangi* (privy Councillor) and the Emperor rewarded his services to the country in September of the same year, by granting him a pension of 1,800 *Koku* of rice, which however Okubo respectfully declined to accept, and which, on the Emperor insisting, he transferred to the Board of Industry, a bureau established for the purpose of promoting the development of the Industries of Japan.

In 1870, he accompanied Iwakura and Saigo to Kagoshima, and subsequently to Tosa, and induced the Prince of Satsuma and Itagaki, *Karo* or premier of the Tosa Daimiate, to come up to the capital, where a conference was held, and the feudal system entirely abolished, on the recommendation of a Commission of fifteen of the ablest men in the Empire, with the late Kido at their head. In the re-organization of the Government, in June 1871, he was appointed Minister of Finance, and when the Embassy under Iwakura was despatched on its mission to America and Europe, in 1872, Okubo, jointly with Kido and Ito, was nominated Vice-Ambassador. From Washington, he returned to Japan with Ito, and suggested the revision of the Treaties with Foreign nations, the Government of the United States having signified its willingness to consent to the measure; but did not succeed in obtaining the sanction of the Government here to grant the Embassy the necessary increased powers to carry out that object. In fact, the other Powers having Treaties with Japan very properly declined to discredit their own envoys, by treating directly with the Japanese Embassy, and relegated the consideration of the question to their Representatives in Japan, as more fully competent to discuss the new proposals. He therefore rejoined the Embassy in Europe, returning finally to Japan in 1874, when he was immediately reappointed a *Sangi*.

On his arrival, he found the Government had adopted a policy with regard to Corea which he considered detrimental to the true interests of the country, and against this policy he set his determined opposition, which was successful. But it resulted in the resignation of Saigo, Soyeshima and others and their return to their native provinces, and from this point diverged the paths in life of the two ancient colleagues whom we have seen working together for the Mikado's restoration, each ending in violent death, the one meeting his fate last year on the battle-field, the other falling now beneath the swords of assassins. Appointed Chief Minister of the Home Department,—when, shortly after the abandonment of the Corcan invasion project and the retirement of Saigo and his friends, the Saga rebellion broke out, in 1874,—Okubo was nominated to the

command of the forces, and by the firmness and energy he displayed, and his able use of the new means at the disposal of Government for the transport of men, munitions of war and transmission of intelligence, this rebellion was speedily and effectually crushed. The Formosa question then arose and Okubo proceeded to Peking, accredited as Special High Commissioner from his Sovereign, and succeeded in bringing the difficulty to a satisfactory issue in such a manner as well deserved the approval of the Mikado and the country generally, and also elicited the cordial approbation of the foreign diplomatists with whom he was brought in contact.

On his return from his mission to Peking, Okubo, with Ito, devoted himself to bring about a reconciliation with those officials who had resigned office; and with this object in view he met Kido, Itagaki and Inouye in Osaka and succeeded in persuading Kido and Itagaki to return to Tōkiō, where they were reappointed *Sangi*, and these, together with Ito, were appointed a Commission to suggest a future line of policy for the Government, which should guarantee it against such shocks as that of the Saga rebellion. Kido's views, we know now, inclined so far in the direction of representative Government, as to lead us to believe that he would have prepared the road to Republicanism; but the Report of the Commission went only so far as to recommend an attempt to inaugurate a system of Representative Government under a constitutional Monarchy. In accordance with this report, an Imperial Edict was promulgated on the 14th April 1875, which we quoted, in our issue of the 4th inst. in a note to an article from the *Choya Shimbun*—'The Pretence of Constitutional Government.' This created two deliberative and legislative assemblies, the *Gen-rō-in* and the *Dai-shin-in*, and promised that their members should be representatives from all parts of the country. But Okubo appears to have thought the time yet immature for such a radical change, and with the excesses of similar assemblies in France on the record of the last hundred years, we cannot say he was unwise. Then Kido, who was the great advocate for representative Government, was compelled, by failing health, to retire from active life, the Mikado's promise of 1875 was evaded, and in 1877, Satsuma burst into a blaze of civil war. Whether, if Okubo had been better trusted by this powerful and arrogant clan, he could have gradually educated the people into fitness for the liberty demanded, we shall never, now, know; there seems good reason to believe that—despairing of their remaining quiet and fearing lest they should grow too strong for ultimate control—he took, at least, no precautionary measures to prevent the outbreak, if he did not purposely invite its explosion. The history of this period of Japanese history has yet to be written.

But this we know: that immediately the storm burst, he took the helm of the vessel of state, and boldly guided her into port, though with an almost mutinous crew. It is certain that his colleagues would have been content to resign, rather than push matters to extremity, and have admitted to power a new Ministry, with Saigo as their nominal chief. Foreigners, at least, and all interested in foreign trade, have reason to be grateful to Okubo for standing firm. That a retrograde policy in the country's foreign relations was to have been the leading principle of such a Cabinet is clear from Saigo's manifesto, and from the documents just published by the slaughterers of Okubo in attempted justification of their crime. His firmness prevented the calamity. At the outbreak of revolt, he proceeded at once to Kiyoto, where the Mikado was 'on progress,' and remained there, happily supported by his Sovereign's favour, and so inspiring his colleagues and subordinates with his own dauntless resolution, that the dreaded clan of the South were faced, checked, out-maneuvred and finally crushed. That he possessed the full confidence of His Majesty was evidenced by the honour

bestowed on him, on one occasion during this period—trivial to Western minds, but very significant here—of a cup of wine being presented to him by the Emperor's own hand, the cup having just previously touched the Imperial lips.

Two days after the Sovereign's return to his eastern capital,—Okubo, having completed the work of stamping out the revolt, followed him, and has since, in Tōkiō, devoted himself to the task of healing the wounds inflicted on the country by the civil war. He has liberally used the Government funds, and largely supplemented them from his private means, to ameliorate the condition of the sufferers, rebuilding burnt towns and villages, distributing aid to impoverished farmers, and endeavouring, by tempering justice with mercy, to conciliate the beaten clan. He has also occupied himself in promoting new manufacturing and other industrial enterprises, which have been assisted by subsidies and other means, and has also taken an active personal share in the work of preparing and dispatching the exhibits from Japan for the great Paris show of 1878. At the early age of forty-two, this useful career, this active life, have now been brought to a sudden, violent end.

From the above brief and imperfect outline of his life, it will be seen that Okubo Toshimitchi was one of the most prominent men engaged in the Restoration struggle, and certainly the leading spirit of the Cabinet since its triumph. His name deserves, not only the posthumous honours bestowed on it by a grateful sovereign, but that it should be placed high in Japanese history and live in the memory of his countrymen. To his firmness of character and breadth of view, to his tact and prudence, to his intelligent appreciation of Japan's new position amongst the nations, and to his not less intelligent valuation of Western ideas and inventions, are to be attributed the facts that Japan has made startling progress in a new civilization, and that she has been spared some at least of the inevitable evils which are inseparable from any violent change in the polity of a nation, as in the habits of a man. These are great benefits for any statesman to confer upon his country. To these, he has added great sacrifices. When overthrowing the feudal system, when crushing provincial revolt, when encouraging trade with foreigners, and fostering the naturalization of foreign arts and sciences, he was setting himself—and he knew it—in opposition to national pride, prejudice, feeling and tradition, to promote what he justly deemed the nation's good. But he had first to surmount prejudices in himself, based upon the teachings of his infancy, on the precedents of generations of his family, on the whole method of life of his associates. He had to cut himself loose from ties of an almost sacred character, to break with cherished friends, to incur not only the scorn and hostility of his clan, who regarded him as a traitor, but to brave the enmity of the great majority of his countrymen, who failed to appreciate his motives. He has now, by the involuntary sacrifice of his life, completed the sum of possibility, and his friends have left to them the task to guard his memory from slander. He appears to have disdained to guard his body from the assassins' steel.

It may be—it has often been—said, that ambition, love of power, greed of gold, were the ruling motives of the dead statesman's conduct. The same are attributed to his colleagues. This is one of the penalties of place. It has been alleged against him, that he forced on the Satsuma rebellion, that he attempted to procure the assassination of his former friend, that he let loose the dogs of war on some of the Empire's fairest provinces,—rather than resign his place and its emoluments, and sink into the luxurious obscurity of the 'joyous life' to which the warm, sensuous nature of the inhabitants of these islands naturally inclines. He has been accused of enormous peculation, of diverting the monies of the state to his own purse,

under pretence of subsidizing new industries. To what end? He has lived in no Palace of Pleasure, wasted no substance in either ostentatious banquets, art collections, or expensive foreign travel. The simple and frugal way in which live the high officers of state in this country excites the wonder of every intelligent visitor. Their residences are such as in Europe are occupied by the middle classes, and their whole method and habits of life seem to harmonize with their unostentatious dwellings. When, in addition, we reflect that each one of them, as a leader of the van of attack against deep-rooted prejudice of the hoariest antiquity, must be fully conscious that he moves in hourly danger of death,—and in such danger as only exists where men are content to go laughing to the Silent Land, if but one successful blow has sent an enemy to precede them on the dark path:—when we add this to the cares of office, its emoluments seem to shrivel into dry leaves like fairy gold, its power seems but a mockery, its enjoyment null. A sense of duty, overwhelming, mastering all other considerations, supreme, seems to us to give the only clue to the enigma why men should seek, or hold to, office, in New Japan. With one solitary exception, not a single one of the statesmen who guided the revolution of 1868 to a successful issue has died in his bed. Kido went peacefully to his eternal rest, with 'honour, love, obedience,—troops of friends,' to smooth his passage into the Land of Shades:—but the rest, all Councillors of State or members of the Cabinet—Yokoi Hachiro, Oomura Masuji, Hiro-sawa Hiyoki, Yetô Shimpei, Mayebara Isei, Saigo Takamori—where are they? Mouldering all in bloody, some in dishonoured graves—dead by the hands of assassins, or the executioner, or on the battle field. No great incentive to ambition here,—to live a life without leisure, and to look, through an avenue of the tombs of friends, upon a not distant grave. That Okubo appreciated his responsibilities, knew his danger, and acutely felt his forced separation from the associations and friendships which give to life its chiefest charm, his demeanour showed to all who knew him well. But duty with him was before all. During the height of the rebellion of last year,—before Fortune seemed inclined to smile upon the Imperial arms,—speaking to a foreign friend, of the death of an intimate companion who had fallen in the field, Okubo expressed envy, not regret. 'He died as he wished to die,' he exclaimed, 'doing his duty—and how could he die better? Would I had been in his place, but duty keeps me here—my friend—here by my Emperor's side. A time may come?'—He little thought how soon. He, too, has fallen; fallen in the harness of duty, though not his the fiery joy of strife; for the rallying trumpet note, or the triumphant shout of victory, to his failing sense came only the assassin's vengeful curse; but with him at the last must have been the same consoling thought that—so far—his duty had been done. He is gone. His Emperor mourns and honours him, a time will come when his countrymen will know him for what he was,—and his friends must be resigned.

FIRE INSURANCE IN JAPAN. II.

WE HAVE now before us the remainder of Dr. Mayet's paper on collective and compulsory insurance in this country. The author concludes his labours by what he calls a 'critique' of what has gone before, but which is rather a summary of the facts and figures he has grouped together, and a statement of corroborative arguments. We are not left quite so sanguine of the success of his scheme, after reading this, as before.

A very obvious objection to the value of his statistics must be apparent to every reader: that—the figures of only two years,—they are quite insufficient data on which to found a proper estimate of the necessary amount of premium or house-tax. When we consider the voluminous

and minute statistics, spreading over a large number of years, which are thought necessary, by English actuaries, to enable them to construct the requisite tables for insurance of life, house property or shipping,—it is at once apparent that the statistics of only two years—and of two years in which the number of fires differs so widely as in Dr. Mayet's tables, cannot afford any proper basis for fixing the amount of a house-tax. Our author appears to be aware of this, himself, for he purposely over-estimates the damages done by several causes of destruction, and his figure of one per cent (actually 0.9477) was confessedly a maximum. In the second part of his essay, in a Note which is valuable, as fixing for us the population of these islands at 34,338,367, he pares down his figure of premium to 0.8707, and might reduce it still lower, as certainly destruction by wind, water and earthquakes, may to a great extent be diminished from the figures assigned to them, and destruction by war may now be almost altogether eliminated. But on the other hand,—when comparing Japan with other countries in the matter of destruction caused by fire, Dr. Mayet's line of argument is by no means convincing. For he tells us that 'though the Japanese are careless with fire, they have fewer conflagrations than we have' and cites several dangers special to foreign-built houses and habits, such as open fire places, the use of bad lucifer matches 'which break off when struck,' uncovered lights, curtains, and the 'drying and steam-rooms of manufactories.' From these special dangers, he claims that Japan is entirely free. But how long is the country to enjoy this immunity? It is perfectly clear that, were the government to adopt his suggestion and become the insurer of the people's houses, its first duty would be to prevent the terrific spread of fires, by rebuilding all houses burnt down—not in the old Japanese fashion, with wood and straw,—but in brick. Private enterprise is already doing this to a small extent, and where we find brick or stone used as material, we find foreign houses taken as the model, with chimnies, open fireplaces, foreign furniture and curtains—complete. The inclination of the upper and middle classes is decidedly towards abandonment of the old ways, and imitation of Europe in dress and habits of living. Lucifer matches, again, have got a very decided footing in the country, and the flint and steel, and the live coal, will very soon be things of the past. As for the 'badness' of the lucifers,—as the Japanese are manufacturing them for themselves, a few years' statistics will soon show Europe to be in a better position in this respect. As for the dangers from candles, or other means of lighting, Dr. Mayet omits all mention of kerosine lamps, which are coming into quite general use here, and which are probably, of all means of illumination the most dangerous, and the figure of destruction from which will have to be alarmingly increased, as the Japanese begin to use their own home-prepared mineral oil, instead of the carefully refined foreign article, in which the danger of spontaneous combustion, at all events, is nearly nullified. The very worthy ambition of the people of Japan to become a manufacturing nation is fast introducing factories and machinery of every description, with all their concomitant dangers of 'drying and steam rooms'—while other national qualities, not quite so laudable as ambition, make the figure of danger from these causes much higher than with ourselves, who thoroughly understand machinery, take proper precautions against special dangers, and do not leave steam engines to run by themselves, as happened the other day at a paper mill in Tokio, when the bottom was knocked out of the cylinder while the engineer and his comrades were sipping their tea, or smoking their pipes.

But to pass from minute criticism of a scheme which, after all, perhaps, the author puts forth as merely tentative, and which—certainly—requires far more extended

statistical tables, covering a long series of years, as a base on which to calculate a new, universal and important tax; there are two very great objections to Dr. Mayet's proposal which must at once occur to any one conversant with Fire Insurance business, and specially so in Japan. We do not so much quarrel with the amount of his proposed house-tax—one per cent, because—though, under our voluntary system in England, one-eighth per cent is about the average premium,—still, for the present, at least in Japan, until some great ruler has arisen who has found his cities built of wood and straw, and left them of brick, the risk of fire is not over-estimated as being eight times as great as in England, especially when such earthquakes and inundations as Dr. Naumann tells us of, and a few trifles of typhoons are thrown into the bargain. But we think that the learned author of this paper has made a grievous mistake in proposing to tax every house alike, the solitary cottage on the moor, the ancient temple in the forest, and the house in the crowded street of Tōkiō or Osaka. One per cent to insure a house in the capital against fire, earthquake, war or typhoon! To house owners who count the life of a house seven years, who expect,—and seem to take care to get it,—a conflagration that destroys square miles of streets every revolving decade, when the year of the Tiger, or the month of the Flying Dragon, comes round—one per cent is indeed a cheap rate of insurance! Fifteen per cent is about what an experienced insurance actuary would ask for insurances in the business quarters of Tokio. While, to tax with one per cent the temple that has stood unharmed for centuries, where no fire beyond that which slowly consumes the smouldering incense stick is seen from dawn to dusk, or the grey old thorp, that has sheltered generation after generation of farmers whose expenditure in 'uncovered lights' is met by the few *sen* which purchase the oil and rush-wicks for the night lamp—to equalize on these the tax whose product is to rebuild burnt towns, this would be indeed injustice, which no correlative or consequent advantages to trade or credit, would out-weigh. Dr. Mayet must more minutely examine and divide the police statistics and tell us what percentage of fires occur in towns and what in the country, and properly apportion the risks and the premia, before he can reckon on support for his scheme from press, Government, or people.

Another fatal objection to his proposals is that he concerns himself with the houses only, and not at all with the property stored within them. The insurances effected under the voluntary system on goods, furniture, and other property exceed, we expect, those on the mere buildings which contain them. But, by making Government the general insurer on buildings only, and compelling the people to insure their buildings alone in the Government office, you take away from voluntary enterprise a large part of the inducements to start private insurance offices. This is of itself a great evil, and we do not imagine that Dr. Mayet will propose to the Government at any time to extend its business to the insurance of goods. Better to accumulate and publish the statistics, and then leave the whole business to the growing common-sense and appreciation of foreign example which is already in many ways improving the condition of Japan.

We have not space, to-day, to make more than one or two practical suggestions to the Government likely to be of any use in mitigating the undoubtedly enormous evil of danger from fire in the cities of Japan. But part of its largely redundant police force might surely be excellently well utilized as fire-brigades drilled in foreign fashion, and taught to put out fires instead of posturing in ridiculous armour on the roofs of houses, pulling off tiles to let sparks in amongst the dry rafters. A small amount of money might very usefully be spent in sinking firewells and replacing the native squirts by effective foreign en-

gines. And, particularly, surveyors should be appointed to superintend all new buildings, and where possible in old ones, to see that fire proof walls, at short intervals, are built to break up rows of houses into separate fortresses against the dreaded foe. Government might thus assist private insurance offices and there would be no objection, even, to its going further, and helping their establishment by lending, on easy terms, a portion of their capital or guaranteeing them, for a short term of years, against bankruptcy by the occurrence of an exceptionally disastrous year early in their career. But on the whole, we cannot recommend Government to commence business as insurers, or support the proposal to levy a one per cent house duty upon cottages and farm houses; and therefore, fully recognizing Dr. Mayet's industry and ingenuity, we must regretfully decline to give to his scheme the infinitesimal assistance of our support.

THE OPENING SEASON AND BLACK TEA.

OUR Spring carnival, the meeting of the Yokohama Jockey Club, being happily over, we can again occupy ourselves with matters of commercial importance, with some chance of getting a hearing; and very prominent among these is the opening of the Tea season of 1878-79. This is especially interesting to us, on account of the persistence shown by the natives in prosecuting their experiment in Black Tea making, which we have more than once deprecated as likely to result disastrously. We cordially hope—an unusual statement for a journalist to make,—that the end of the campaign may prove us to have been wrong in our opposition: but that opposition has been manifested quite disinterestedly, and in perfect good faith. Foreign commercial interests generally are so intertwined with native, that for the native tea trade to suffer a really heavy blow cannot fail to affect ourselves in a not remote future, and—setting aside sentimental desires to see Japan making progress, which we have never pretended to formulate as a chief actuating motive—the greater weight should be given to an honest expression of conviction, when we acknowledge, as we do in this instance, that self-interest, general benefit to the trade, which includes the particular benefit of foreign tea-traders, has been the object that we have had in view in opposing what may seem a too conservative front to the desire to make an experiment, with a view to the extension of the export trade. The notification by the Naimusho was evidently actuated by this desire. Setting forth that prices in the American market had so fallen that, though the export thithor of Japan tea had largely increased, no commensurate profits had been made, and evidently anticipating the danger of even this market being lost, and the consequent necessity of seeking others, the Minister urged that an attempt should be made to manufacture Black Tea which might be put into competition with the produce of China and India in the far larger and more numerous markets of Europe. No small amount of trouble and expense was incurred by the Department. Commissioners were despatched to China and India, to enquire into the methods of preparing Black Tea in these countries, and the results of their investigations were collected and published in the form of Instructions, which have been circulated though the tea-districts. Experiments on a sufficiently large scale were also made in the Kōchi ken and small sample consignments were made in various directions and foreign reports on the leaf procured. We believe that some of these reports at least were favourable, but we much fear that sufficient weight has not been given to the point which must have been made in all such, that the tea would be saleable *at a price*. This question of price is of course the crucial one, and the reason why we have unswervingly opposed the experiment being made on a large scale is, that we are of opinion that this is the main

point where the experiment will break down. It must also be borne in mind that some, at least, of these small preliminary experiments have been made under skilled foreign direction, European and Chinese, that the teas were finished and packed up-country and shipped direct to their destination, where they were at once tasted and reported on. It must, of course, be manifest that these are very different conditions to those under which will be despatched the bulk of that portion of the crop of 1878-9 which the Japanese tea growers now propose to make into Black Tea. The tea will be prepared, without all the elaborate care and skilled aid devoted to the samples made last season; we do not anticipate that native merchants intend shipping on their own account, and, consequently, the teas must undergo inspection—and, as we pointed out in a former article, very minute inspection, box by box,—before shipment by foreign buyers; it must consequently either carry the expense of re-leading and re-packing, or—sent down unpacked,—will so suffer *in transitu*, that its aroma will be materially impaired, and it will have to be re-fired in Yokohama before shipment. On the one hand, it would suffer an increase of charges, on the other a decrease in quality. Native tea growers, therefore, who may attempt to follow the Government's advice, must find themselves on one or other horn of this dilemma, and we seriously fear will be tossed by either into the Slough of Despond.

We are anxious to give to our opponents in this matter a thoroughly fair field, and we therefore quote a letter just received from the Editor of the *Produce Markets Review*, a weekly newspaper devoted to the interests of the Grocery Trade of Great Britain, and a very high authority upon Tea. This is a perfectly independent and unsolicited report on the new Teas, and as such is probably of greater value than most of those received by the Government itself. The writer says:—

"The Japanese Government finding that Japan Green, or uncoloured Green, Tea, does not sell here, though England is the great Tea mart of the world, has recently had a few samples of Black Tea prepared which are admirably adapted to English requirements. In China some Teas—the Taysan kinds—formerly not esteemed here, and which were weak like Japans, have been vastly improved of late years, and are now in great favour. The Chinese have in this case adopted some of the changes introduced into Tea-making by our planters in Assam, and if the Japanese Government want to improve the strength and pungency of their Teas, they should enquire into the way the best Indian Teas are made. The chief difference between the processes adopted in India and China, is, we believe, that the juice is not squeezed out of the leaves in the former country:—"

But here, too, it will be remarked that the writer, knowing nothing of the cost of preparing the Tea and omitting to put a London market value upon it, drives us back upon the question of cost *versus* sale price, which is after all the *cruz* of the venture. Experts here—as will be seen by reference to our Market Report on another page, put the Tea now shown among the good medium grades of Congous and do not put upon it any better value than a shilling a pound; and at this price we have a sufficiently full conviction that shippers will come out with a loss, to induce us to advise foreign shippers to abstain from sending other than experimental parcels, and most strongly to recommend our native friends to give up the attempt to make it at all.

One other point which makes strongly against these new Blacks is referred to in our Market Report, and should be insisted on here;—the fear that it will deteriorate rapidly in store. We do not anticipate that the first shipments which go forward will be in sufficient quantity to suffer from this defect: the London tea-trade is a large, a rich, and an enterprising one, in both its wholesale and retail branches, and the first Japan Blacks will be curiosities in

their way, which will be bought by a large number of dealers in small parcels, without much regard to profit and loss. There is enough curiosity existent, too, in the British tea-drinker, generally of the sex to which is attributed the largest share of that valuable incentive to the acquirement of knowledge, to ensure the rapid sale of the well-advertised, novel, Japan Black Teas for a fortnight or three weeks. But we venture to predict that no mistress of a British tea table will buy more than her first pound, and, unless it happens that it mixes, in some unforeseen and unexceptionally favourable way with better Tea, the succeeding shipments of the season will hang in first holders' hands, and then will begin to operate with heavily damaging effect, the defect that it keeps badly in warehouse. It is obvious, too, how this will tell upon it in our own market, as the season progresses in Japan.

The only comfort we can extract from the situation is that if, as we are told is threatened, the whole second crop is converted into Black Tea, the now heavy stocks of Japans in America will be worked off without much addition to them from this side of new Teas, and that a consequent rise in prices will give to foreign buyers and holders profits which have too long been only only traditional: but unfortunately for the Japan tea trade in America, scarcity or absence of supply will let in Formosan Oolongs to such an extent that it will be doubtful whether,—after Japan has learnt her bitter lesson of loss and experience, in trying to find a new market,—she will not discover that she has altogether lost the old one. The fable of the dog and the meat-shadow is as true now as when *Æsop* wrote, thirteen hundred years ago. Japanese tea-men should read it, and perpend.

A PORTUGUESE gentleman has been good enough to send us the following translation, from the *Diario de Noticias* a Lisbon journal, of the very remarkable escape from a watery grave, of a quartermaster of the *Africa*, a Portuguese transport which our readers will remember as having visited these waters last year. Januario Gomes, the sailor in question, is allowed—or readers will remark,—to tell his story in his own plain fashion. The contributor to the *Diario*, who sends his account of his accident and almost miraculous salvation to the newspaper, prefaces it thus:—

"Januario Gomes is the name of the quartermaster of the Portuguese transport 'Africa' a most intrepid sailor of our navy, who without being a Boyton, or indeed a swimmer of any particular note, yet managed to 'loaf about' on the waves of the Mediterranean, during nine consecutive hours. He is now back from China, whither he had gone with his ship, having had, during the whole of the commission, only five days' leave—those which elapsed between his falling overboard near Carthage, and his reporting himself on board at Port Said."

After this introduction, the writer proceeds to give Gomes' account of his accident in his own unvarnished words, as thus:—

"It had not gone six bells on board the *Africa*, that is, it was not quite three in the morning, and I had to be on watch at four. I was obliged to get up and go to the fore-castle. I was not sleepy at the time. The ship had no sail set, but was going well under her engines only, at full speed. I slipped and fell, I know not whether from giddiness or from the rolling of the vessel. I know only that I sunk, and that when I returned to the surface, I saw the ship about two cables' length away, I shouted, and shouted a good deal, but could understand that I was not heard on board. This is not to be wondered at. The bridge crosses the middle of the steamer, and on it stood the officer on the watch. The noise of the machinery and the beating of the screw would not permit his hearing my cries for help, I therefore swam, unceasingly; preserving always the same position, the chest in the water, with wide opened legs and arms.

"The darkness of night was dispelled, and the day

"broke clear and fine. When I calculated from the height of the sun that it was 8 o'clock, I distinguished, at a great distance, the smoke of a steamer. I lifted one arm, then another, but to no good. I then tried to get rid of my clothes, a pair of trousers, a shirt and an undershirt, and felt that weakness was gaining over me. My left leg bent with difficulty, and my teeth got tighter and tighter. I gave up the idea of swimming, and allowed myself to go with the current. It was perhaps 10 a.m. when I saw another steamer, also *au large*. I made the same telegraphic signs, with arms and legs out of the water. She passed me unnoticed, and left me more miserable than before I descried her. I then thought to myself: it is sure I must die in the sea; perhaps in a couple of hours, it will be all over.

"Scarcely that time had elapsed when another steamer goes past. I made new signals, and made a last effort to rise. I was discovered, I was saved. The steamer twice whistled, and as there was no fog, it was consequently a sign of help 'Courage, sailor' might have been the meaning of the whistling.

"I must say I felt I had more of it then, than on any other occasion, and quietly waited for assistance. The steamer steered towards me, a boat was lowered, and feeling myself lifted, I closed my eyes, and felt thoroughly exhausted. It was then twelve o'clock."

The *Diario's* correspondent concludes by telling his readers that

"The saviour steamer was the "Penguin" of the firm "Leite & Co., commanded by a good sailor, with an excellent heart. We cannot help registering his name. Joseph "Dowdy."

The *Penguin's* people having picked up their man, found him naturally in a state of exhaustion; but by dint of rubbing his body with brandy, and administering the same medicine internally, they gradually brought him round. A few hours of slight fever, accompanied by delirious symptoms supervened, but Captain Dowdy seems to have been as good a medico as a skipper, and very soon put Gomes on his legs again. After touching at Malta, and experiencing the disappointment of seeing the smoke of the *Africa* on the horizon, that vessel having sailed an hour or two before the *Penguin's* arrival. At Port Said, however, the latter ship cast anchor four hours before the *Africa* arrived. Then occurred an opportunity for the health officer of the Khedive to give a surprise to the commandant of the Portuguese man-of-war. Going on board he asked the usual questions. To the query 'How many men have you in your ship's complement' he received the reply 'Four hundred and eighty.' 'I beg your pardon, you have one more.' 'I cannot admit that,' replied the Captain—'I know perfectly well the number of my men.' 'Well in this case, you are mistaken, for you omitted to include your boatswain.' 'I know it'—was the reply—'but unfortunately he fell overboard and is probably dead.' 'Not so, Sir,—pointing to the *Penguin*, 'you will find him there.' This is not so dramatic an incident as Peter Simple reporting himself while the auction was going on of his effects, and Captain Hawkins was cracking his brutal jests over the supposed dead man's trousers, but the incident must have enlivened the monotony of the Egyptian's daily work, and the joy and surprise of Gomes' comrades may be imagined.

COLLECTIVE INSURANCE OF BUILDINGS IN JAPAN.

(A paper read before the German Asiatic Society—April the 13th, 1878. By Dr. P. MARET.)

(Concluded from our last).

IX.—CRITIQUE OF THE RESULT.

IS the result at which I have arrived a probable one? In view of the increases which I have made in each case, this question may properly be restricted. That relating to the premium for earthquakes, inundations, gales and war, will not appear too small; and I shall therefore only inquire, is the result a probable one, so far as the number of houses consumed by fire, is concerned? I am of opinion that it is, for the following reasons:

1.—The statistics given on this subject are official and appear trustworthy. They exhibit, for both years, a systematic distribution of the conflagrations; and there are sufficient reasons for the difference in the numbers of houses destroyed.

2.—Another official table of statistics gives a remarkable, and quite unintentional confirmation of the first table. According to the sixth report of the Imperial Japanese Postmaster General, for the fiscal year July 1st, 1876 to June 30th 1877, 3,744 post offices existed in the whole Empire, of which 27 were destroyed by fire. If we recollect that, in the fiscal year 1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877, the insurrections in Kumamoto and Hagi, and various peasant revolts and the beginning of the Satsuma insurrection occurred (in the last, between the 15th February and the 21st June, in Kumamoto alone 17,055 houses were destroyed) it will be evident that more than 3 post offices were destroyed by fire occasioned by war. If we deduct only 3 as the loss by war, the average destruction of post offices will be in the same proportion as the general destruction of houses in Japan. 24 post offices destroyed in a total number of 3,744 gives 0.6410 per cent for the post offices, and according to the police statistics for the same period 44,085 houses or 0.6354 per cent were destroyed in a total of 6,938,255 houses. This last result consequently seems correct and not at all too small.

3.—One of the Tokio papers, the *Yomi Uri Shimbun*, has made a very decided attempt to report on each conflagration in Japan. It procured information by letter and telegraph from every part of the country; it even mentioned 187 fires in the course of two years, which were put out; and 516 in which only from 1 to 10 houses were destroyed. In each case the name of the province, district, town or village and street, together with the number of the houses and the name of the proprietor, are exactly given. It records accurately the number of houses and fire proof storehouses, and what public buildings were consumed; and also the number of persons killed and wounded in each case. Nevertheless it mentioned in the two years 1876-77 only about 867 conflagrations, or the twenty second part of the number reported by the police. The reports of the latter appear therefore very complete.

4.—The proportion 0.6354 per cent, as that of burned to unburned houses is probable *per se*. Let us compare it with European statistics.

PROPORTION OF INJURY TO THE AMOUNT INSURED.

In France,* 1871.....	0.0395 per cent.
„ Do. 1872.....	0.0380 „
„ Germany,† 1877.....	0.0925 „
„ Norway,‡ in the country 1845-74 incl....	0.1465 „
„ Do. in the towns id.....	0.4744 „
„ Japan, 1876-77	0.6354 „

The proportion for Japan is sixteen times that of the proportion for France; seven times that of Germany, four times that of the country in Norway, and one and one third times that of the towns.

In a rich country like France, the houses are mostly built of stone, in Japan they are of wood, straw and paper, hence the danger is sixteen times greater here.

In Germany, the houses are chiefly built of stone, but in the villages the houses are much more frequently roofed

* See Wallmann's German Insurance Calendar 1874 p. 265.

† In the twenty old French fire insurance companies, which on the 31st December, 1872 assured to the amount of 75,166,987,472 francs:—

	1871.	1872.
The proportion of the premium to the amount insured.....	0.0915 per ct.	0.0896 per ct.
The proportion of the damage to the premium	43.13 „	42.42 „
Hence the proportion to the amount insured.....	0.0395 „	0.0380 „

‡ Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung. Handels Beilage No. 21 1878.

According to an approximate estimate, property, moveable or immoveable, to the amount of 60,560 Millions of Marks is insured in the German Empire. The premium for this amounts to 108 Millions of Marks or 0.1783 per cent of the value. The amount of damage was 56 Millions or 0.0925 per cent of the insured value.

‡ Le Royaume de Norvège et le peuple Norvégien, par le Dr. O. Broch; Président de la Commission Norvégienne pour l'exposition et le congrès d'hygiène et de sauvetage à Bruxelles 1876. Christiania 1876 page 113, and in annex p. 70. In Norway there is a general insurance office, with distinct departments for the towns and the country. The statistics communicated extend over thirty years.

with straw and shingle than in France; they are on the whole not so safe as those of France, and hence the Japanese houses are seven times more liable to fire than those of Germany.

In Norway, the towns and villages are built of wood, as in Japan, and therefore the Japanese proportion approaches most nearly that of Norway. The Japanese house of wood, straw and paper is four times more liable to fire than the houses of the Norwegian peasantry, and one and one-third times more liable than a house in a Norwegian town.

The French, German and Norwegian data seem to support the correctness of the statistics of the Japanese fires.

5.—The difference just cited between Norwegian towns and villages, viz: that the former suffer three times as much injury as the latter, leads us to conclude, that towns built of wood are more liable to fire for each individual house than villages built of wood. In a town, in proportion to the number of houses, more fires break out than in a village. Each of these fires is not only dangerous to a space as large as a village but also to the houses in distant places. The extension of wood built towns is of itself a circumstance highly dangerous in cases of fire. When the latter has once reached a certain point, it can, if favoured by the wind, reach every house. It produces such a heat that fresh houses can be set on fire by the heated air which is carried away, without direct contact with the fire itself. The foreigners in Japan live only in large towns and are witnesses of fires which are most violent and destructive, and receive therefore the general impression which is not borne out by statistics which take the whole country into account: that the liability of Japanese buildings to catch fire is so great that no reasonable or moderate premium would suffice to cover the risk.

6.—Although the Japanese are careless with fire, they have fewer conflagrations than we have, and for this there are various reasons. The *hibachi* is dangerous to their dress, but the open fire places of the English and French are still more dangerous for the clothing of foreign ladies. More than 10 per cent of our fires are chimney fires, caused by the false construction of the chimney—according to a statement* of Mr. Bock, the chief of the fire-brigade in Stettin, there were in that town during the 11 years 1865-76 incl. 663 fires, 212, or 32 per cent of which were chimney fires; in this country where there are no chimneys we have not this class of fires;—about 6 per cent of our fires are caused by bad matches which break off when struck; here people use flint and the live coal for lighting—About 7 per cent of our fires originate from uncovered lights, the Japanese are accustomed to use lanterns in going from place to place; they have no curtains in their rooms to catch fire.—About 10 per cent of our fires originate from lightning and this occurs but very seldom here;—in 1,200 cases of Japanese fires which I have examined, I have only found 6 or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, in which lightning was the cause. Coincident with this Mr. Knipping found only 33 thunderstorms in Tokio or an average of 6 to 7 a year for the five years 1872-77. Dr. Geertz says: "Thunder and lightning are rare in Nagasaki."† Dr. Hepburn‡ referring to the years 1863-69 incl. for Yokohama, observes: "thunderstorms are neither frequent nor severe." Moreover in Japan we have none of those fires, which occur in the drying and steam-rooms of manufactories, and which are so common at home.

For the six reasons above given I am of opinion that the average number of houses burned down, which I have arrived at is sufficient, and that the amount of the premium, namely 0.9447 per cent, founded thereon is ample for the insurance of Japanese houses against all these dangers.

[NOTE:—In the interval between the reading and the publication of this paper, I have been furnished with a new proof that the premium of 94½ *sen* per 100 *yen* is taken sufficiently high. I am in a position to communicate here some interesting statistics to the point from the unpublished tables of the census which was taken on the 1st January of the ninth year of Meiji (1876):

1.—On the 1st January 1876 Japan had 34,338,367 inhabitants; taking as above 4.9 inhabitants for each house we get 7,007,830 houses. Taking then as above, the expenses expressed in houses to be 65,547, the necessary pre-

mium becomes 93.53 *sen* for every 100 *yen* of value insured, that is, still less than the 94½ *sen* found above.

2.—Japan had on the 1st January 1876 households, (*Kamado*)

- a. Of Japanese residing in their native places..... 7,208,122
- b. Of Japanese who do not reside in their native places 84,964

Total..... 7,293,086 households

If we regard this number of households as the number of houses, we get 90.12 *sen* as the premium for 100 *yen* value insured, that is, a smaller sum than the 94½ *sen* already found.

3.—Now if we include the number of temples on the 1st January 1876 we get:—

Shinto temples..... 162,782
Buddhist temples..... 71,962
Kamado..... 7,293,086

Total..... 7,527,830 temples and Kamado.

Taking this as the number of buildings obliged to contribute, we get only 87.07 *sen* as the premium for every 100 *yen* of value insured, that is, still less than the 94½ *sen*.]

X.—ONE OBJECTION AGAINST FIRE INSURANCE

used to be that it made incendiarism more frequent.—It is true,—but only for those places where there is no sufficient police protection against *over* insurance. Thus originated the epidemic of incendiary speculation in the Northern States of America during the stagnation of trade between the years 1862 and 1866. Before the war, loss by fire was about 22 Millions of dollars yearly, in 1865 60 Millions and in 1866 it reached the enormous sum of 100 Millions. During this period 1862-66, 1837 fires took place in New York, of which 678 or more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the whole were proved to be due to incendiaries*. In consequence of this as Jacobi† observes, "America is now making extraordinary experiments of excessive police supervision in fire insurance."

The two most simple legal means which are completely adaptable to Japan are 1st. compulsory *under*-insurance and 2nd., rendering rebuilding obligatory.

Insurance against fire would not be permitted to the full value of the house, because no one would set fire to his house in order to lose by it. Thus, in the last century, the insurance-offices of Saxony insured only to the extent of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the value of the moveables. Moreover compensation would only be given as the work of rebuilding proceeded. Thus rebuilding is an indispensable condition in the offices of most of the German states.

With a vigorous enforcement by the police of these two conditions, namely *under*-insurance and rebuilding, there would be no cause for apprehending an increase of the crime of incendiarism. On the contrary, if the proposed insurance is carried out, a decrease of crime may be expected, because there would be no longer, as there are now, several tens of thousands of families impoverished by fire, earthquakes, inundations, storms and war. It is known from the experience of all countries that the ranks of criminals are largely recruited from people who have been thrown out on the world by misfortune.

XI.—THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AS INSURER

The first part of my paper impressed the utility of insurance, the second showed its possibility, the conclusion will briefly mention some reasons for the institution by the government of collective insurance.

1.—The State, the organisation of which extends already to the most insignificant places and which has its police, its administration and tax collectors every where, can most cheaply assess, administer and collect premiums; and examine, estimate and compensate for damages.

2.—All the profit which the State makes in insurance is so much gain to the community. The State is therefore nothing else than the cheapest and most extensive of all possible mutual insurance companies. It could bear any damage above the average, however large, which may occur before the formation of a sufficient reserve fund; it could make the necessary advances and distribute them over

* See R. v. Fischer Treuenfeld's—Fire Telegraphs. Westminster 1877 p. 41.

† Transactions of the Asiatic Society Vol. III, Part II p. 50

‡ Do. Do. 1874 p. 245.

* Vide L. Schmidt. Das ganze des Versicherung's wesen—p. 80.

† Supra. 'Japan Times' of May 11th, 1878.

subsequent years, so that the individual inhabitants would nevertheless not be overtaxed on account of the occurrence of an exceptionally unfortunate year, soon after the foundation of the insurance,—a case in which any private company would become bankrupt. In Norway, for instance, in the course of thirty years there was an unfortunate year (1866) in which five times the average destruction was wrought.

3.—The State, in case it permitted of private companies, could hardly exercise less activity on the part of the police than if it were the insurer itself. The police supervision which the government in Germany, for instance, exercises in the matter of fire insurances is considerable.

4.—Police, fire brigades and the construction and repair of embankments are entirely in the hands of the government. Every improvement of these would otherwise give profit to a private company, but in the way I propose, the saving and preventing of misfortunes would be of direct value to the finances of the State.

5.—By the establishment of insurance in the manner I propose, the State would also improve its finances in many other ways. The insurance would have had to bear in 1877, for instance, about Yen 94,000 expenses of extinguishing fires; Yen 599,922 for war damages in Kumamoto *ken*; Yen 657,738 in Kagoshima *ken*, also the donations to the Miyazaki and Oita *kens*—that is, altogether much more than Yen 1,350,000. It would have, besides its ordinary utility, the value of a new tax which would not be unwillingly given. If the average premium were fixed at 1 per cent instead of 0.9447 per cent, the exchequer would receive a yearly profit of about Yen 150,000. If there were a regulation to the effect that not the whole, but, for instance, only $\frac{1}{2}$ of the damage caused by fire should be repaid, an amount of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the average yearly destruction of houses by fire, that is a quarter of 44,000 houses or 11,000 houses, or at least Yen 385,000, would be saved. Both these receipts would therefore bring the State Yen 535,000. The insurance would in reality, be a house tax which could be very considerably raised by a moderate increase of the premium for town houses. By a taxation of the premiums, England extracted profit from insurance. In 1855 the stamp tax on fire insurances amounted to £1,367,931 and in 1869 the diminished tax gave £1,018,654. (In June 1869 this tax was totally abolished). I would observe in addition that the longer periodicity of great earthquakes, storms, inundations and wars necessitates the accumulation for a number of years of the contributions put down for them. This accumulation could be used by the State at a low rate of interest, in place of public debts with a high rate of interest and thus cause a new reduction of the expenses of the state.

6.—In order to make insurance universal, the State must order it to be so; voluntary insurance requires an universal insight on the part of the population into the nature and utility of insurance; but this knowledge cannot exist here at present to such an extent as to stimulate the instinct of thrift and foresight. Even now, many towns, provinces and States possess a compulsory entrance to certain insurance offices. For instance, offices for compulsory insurance were founded:—

In Silesia	in 1742
„ Brunswick	„ 1750
„ Hanover	„ 1753
„ Norway	„ 1763
„ Wurtemberg	„ 1777
&c.,	&c.

The State must here also compel insurance by law.

7.—The State, even without insurance, feels itself bound to give assistance in cases of more than ordinary disasters. We have already mentioned the large donations given by the government to those whose houses were burned down in the Satsuma rebellion. According to Dr. Naumann, after great destructive earthquakes the Japanese Government in ancient times repeatedly remitted the taxes in the provinces which had suffered. This occurred in the years 818, 839 and 842. But not only the State, but also the public, felt it to be its duty to assist in alleviating the distress occasioned by great catastrophes. At the fire of Tokio in November 1877 *yen* 2,952,82 *sen*, were spent and each of the 39,490 sufferers received 9 *sen* 6 *rits*. How could a drop in the ocean like this be of any use? Thousands and thousands lose their all in the course of

every year, without any compensation; those who are well to do become beggars and are thrown from opulence into penury—unavoidable and unmitigated want and misery occur to thousands yearly. The State can confer the only benefit which will be sufficient for all—the benefit of legal universal insurance.

This would be followed by the prevention of impoverishment, the safety of house and other property and consequently also mortgages; cheaper credit, enhanced production and capacity for export;—and increase of the revenues of the State. All civilized nations have trodden the same path. For instance, in Germany at present the amount of property insured against fire is 15,000 millions of *yen*; in France it was more than this even in 1872; and in all other countries in a like proportion.

May it be granted to us to witness for Japan in a very few years a similar astounding development! Japan, the houses of which are threatened with more disasters than those of Europe, ought to find a stimulant in this very circumstance to increase the protection, and to advance, and lead the way in extending insurance against fire to a collective insurance against all dangers to which houses are subject.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramson's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he or some one else may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can any one say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosei" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, some other student may be able to do the same for it.

3.—Can any account be got of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c. (Unanswered.) X.

Qy. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction. B. A.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat; the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium temulentum* or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineæ*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions. (Unanswered.) R. N.

Qy. 11. Many of your readers, when walking towards the new cemetery, must have remarked the *tombi*, about twelve in number, which dot the table land which lies above Ota on the one side, and the hill of Tobe on the other. These *tombi* are religiously preserved from the sowing of the farm, and must have some history: are they the burying-places of heroes fallen in some old quarrel? Can any of your readers enlighten me? (Unanswered.) T.

NOTE.

IN the *Japan Times* of the 30th March "N. or M." took exception to a statement made by me, viz: that *Oban* and *Koban* were for the first time coined in the period *Tenshō* (1573-1591) and he enumerated a number of coins which he asserted to have been coined prior to that period.

In reply I quoted the books from which I drew my knowledge, without at the time going into the details of the data given by "N. or M." A few days ago I had, however, occasion to make researches about the provincial coins of Japan, and the result I arrive at with regard to several of those enumerated by "N. or M." is so much at variance with his, that I cannot but conclude that he and I must have had access to different sources—or, what is more likely, that one of us has not quite understood the works we have had recourse to. As I am anxious to arrive at correct data, will "N. or M." kindly answer the following questions:—

Has he found it mentioned anywhere that the *Zenkō Koban* (which I understand emanated from the town *Zenkōji* in *Shinshū*) was coined by the *Ashikaga Shōguns*, or circulated under their rule?

Has "N. or M." found quite reliable authority for his statement that the numerous *Odawara Koban* were coined under the *Hōjō* Rule? Those acquainted with the history of Japan will know that by the *Hōjō* rule is meant the *Kamakura Hōjō*, who virtually ruled Japan from 1218 until 1333, when they were totally crushed. About a century and a half after their fall, a person by name *Hōjō Sōun*—but of no connection with the former family of the same name—took possession of the town of *Odawara* and he and his successors retained possession thereof until 1590. Of course "N. or M." knows all these rudiments of Japanese history, and cannot possibly have confounded the *Kamakura Hōjō* with the *Odawara Hōjō*; and that he cannot have meant the latter is obvious from the chronological order of his remarks, as well as from the fact that the *Odawara Hōjō* were still in possession of *Odawara* during *Tenshō*, so that any *Koban* issued by them need not have been coined prior to that period. I would therefore ask him to give me his authority for stating that the *Odawara Koban* were coined by the *Kamakura Hōjō*, at the same time explaining how they came to choose *Odawara* as the place of coining.

With regard to N. or M.'s statement, that the *Hidehira koban* was coined A. D. 745 by *Hidehira*, Duke of *Mutsu*,—is "N. or M." prepared to prove that gold was coined in that province as early as 745, that is four years before this metal was found, there, or in fact anywhere in Japan? Further, if it was *Hidehira* who in 745 coined the said *Koban*, can "N. or M." perhaps tell me, how old this duke was, when four centuries later he, in 1187, gave shelter in his castle to *Yoshitsune*, whose life was sought after by his brother, *Yoritomo*?

When "N. or M." has kindly answered the above questions I may have a few more to ask him.

WILLIAM BRAMSEN.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the *JAPAN TIMES* must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 17TH.

THERE has been an unusual amount of activity amongst the shipping during the past week and there are more vessels on the berth than there have been for months past. The *Tibre*, with the *Marseilles* mail of March 24th, arrived in harbour on Saturday last, followed by the *Belyic* on the same day, twenty-one days out from San Francisco. The *Orissa*, with the English mail of March 29th arrived on the 13th inst. Of homeward mail steamers, the *Volga* left on the 15th inst., her mail being due in London July 8th, which will be anticipated by the mail per *Oceanic*, leaving here on Monday next, by a fortnight, in all probability. The coasting steamers have arrived and departed at their usual dates. We

notice that the *Orestes* a "blue funnel line" steamer, belonging to the Ocean Steam Ship Company, is advertised to leave shortly for London. This will be a capital chance for shipping home presents of curios with dispatch and safety, as there will be no transshipment of cargo between this and the London Docks, and her fragrant burden of tea necessitates the best use of her wings to fly swiftly homewards.

The *Orestes* arrived here on the 11th instant, after a quick passage from Hongkong of six days, against head winds the whole way, and we hear that the O. S. S. Company are likely to run a steamer at least once a month from Hongkong to Yokohama and hence to Shanghai, by the way of the Southern ports. It is also said that, in the event of the recommendations of the Indian Chambers of Commerce being carried out, respecting the mail contract, this Company is likely to prove a formidable competitor with the old P. & O. and that in the event of their tender being successful, they purpose building steamers of a high rate of speed, specially for mails and passengers, cargo being carried by the regular line.

Among the news from Europe which have had most interest for us, have been the details of the loss of the *Eurydice*. There seems no doubt that she was carrying too much sail, but it is being made clearer to our minds, as the enquiry and concurrent discussion go on, that her weights had been disarranged in such a way as to seriously impair her stability. Within sight of home, too, her sea stores were nearly exhausted; and it happened that the whole of her live weight, an unusually large crew, were on deck at the time when the squall struck her: so that a whole combination of circumstances were in favour of her capsizing as she did. An accident so terrible, so piteous, has not befallen the British Navy since the loss of the *Captain*; and this is even a more stunning blow, from Fate striking it at the time and place where it fell. In home waters, flying to her port past the smiling shores, the wooded chimes of England's fairest sea-garden, watched from the cliffs by mothers, sisters and still dearer ones of those on board, a thing of beauty, a triumph of constructive art, and carrying a precious freight of valour, discipline and skill, she rushes suddenly into a squall and is momentarily hidden from view by a soft white veil of snow. Momentarily? Alas, for the gallant hearts! those moments mean for them the duration of eternity! The squall passes, the sun shines out again and the cruel, deceitful waves dance as gaily, and sparkle as brightly, now that they are her tomb, as when—those few moments before—they formed her path. She has vanished—gone—the spectators strain their eyes in vain to seek her on the horizon, and wonder at the speed that has carried her so quickly out of sight,—and turn homewards. They heed not those two minute specks, barely visible on the water, little think that of the ship and the three hundred and twenty men on board—those two are all that remain of the *Eurydice*!

Advertisements in the local dailies announce that 'subscriptions in aid of the widows, orphans, and others who were dependent on those who were lost in her Majesty's ship *Eurydice* will be thankfully received by Mr. J. W. Lishman, Paymaster, R. N. at the Naval Yard.' No doubt the appeal will be liberally responded to. At first sight it may occur to some that—as she was a training ship, and as the bulk of her complement was composed of young men, many of them without relatives, certainly all unmarried—the disaster will not be so widely felt as would have been the case, had the accident happened to another vessel. But this is not the case. In addition to the 'boys' and younger seamen, the *Eurydice* had on board—as is usual with training ships when cruising, a proportionately large number—sixty or seventy at least—of picked, elderly, men to make up her complement;—steady men, almost all with families, and accustomed to save and remit regularly considerable share of their pay. But we need not linger over such details, nor seem to insinuate that the community of Yokohama requires special stimulus. Additional information can be easily got from more competent authority than ourselves; and we are glad to learn that over \$300 have been already received.

The one event of the week which has absorbed attention, both here and in the capital, has been the murder of H. E. Okubo Toshimitchi, which took place about half-past-eight on Tuesday morning the 14th inst. This was the day appointed for the distribution of decorations to officers of the Army and Navy who had been engaged in the suppression of the late rebellion, and the Ministers of State had of course, to be in attendance at the ceremony. Indeed, Ito and Okuma had a narrow escape of sharing the fate of Okubo, for just before leaving his house, he had sent messengers to them, requesting them to come as quickly as possible, and Ito's carriage was not a mile behind Okubo's, when the latter was attacked. There are two roads to the palace from the late Minister's residence, one of them, which he unfortunately took, being a very lonely and unfrequented one. The only persons visible at the moment were two young men in the dress of students,

who were apparently playing in the road, one chasing the other and affecting to strike at him with a branch of a flowering tree. Immediately that the carriage had passed, this man threw down the flowers and fired a pistol, at which signal three men, with the upper part of their dress removed, sprang out from the long grass which bordered the road, and from a little wooden shed. One, armed with a long sword, struck one of the horses on the foreleg, and, on its plunging forward, struck it again on the neck and brought it to the ground. The coachman cried for help and was on the point of descending from his box and attempting to escape, when he was cut down by a blow which divided his body from shoulder to waist. Another servant, a running footman, had meanwhile fled along the road shouting for aid. A fourth of the band, dressed as a policeman, (he had been dismissed, it appears, from the force, but had retained his uniform) meanwhile advanced to the carriage door and opened it, offering to protect the Minister. Okubo descended, and was immediately struck on the head by the man with the long sword. The two seeming students and the others, armed with dirks, then crowded round the fallen man and cut and stabbed him till life was extinct. He received two wounds on the head or face, one in the stomach, two on the right leg, and the fingers of one hand were cut by his attempting to grasp one of the blades. The assassins then threw down their weapons, resumed and adjusted their dresses, and quietly walked on to the palace gate, where they gave themselves into custody. Their names are given by an official Notification as Shimada, Sugimoto, Cho, Wakita and Sugimura, *shizoku* of Ishikawa *ken*, in Kashi (Kaga) and Asai, a *shizoku* of Shimane *ken*, near Kobé. They are all young men, the oldest being only 20, the youngest a boy of 18. From the palace they were taken to the central police station, whither they went laughing, and exulting in their success.

A very curious circumstance signalizes this murder. Not only did Okubo himself, two days before his death, receive an anonymous letter, telling him to be on his guard, as the writer meant to kill him, but when the *Choya Shinbun's* letter box was opened in the afternoon, a document was found headed 'The story of a traitor's punishment,' which had in all probability been put into the box before the murder. It gave the names of some of the assassins and stated their intention to kill him that day and their wish that their reasons for doing so should be published in all the papers. It proceeded to enumerate these as: 1°, That Okubo despised and oppressed the people and was despotic in his administration:—2°, that he was ambitious and greedy of wealth:—3°, that his expenditure on public works and public buildings was wasteful:—4°, that he was the cause of civil war and opposed patriots, and 5°, that he degraded the national dignity by his encouragement of and intercourse with foreigners. The *Choya Shinbun* immediately forwarded this to the police: but, for publishing it, the paper has been suspended. The document appears to have been genuine, as copies of it were found on the prisoners when they were searched; and we confess ourselves unable to see either the justice or the wisdom of stopping the *Choya*.

It is a significant and characteristic fact that public business was not allowed to be suspended in the least by the murder. The decorations were duly bestowed upon the officers; and Ito at once received the appointment of Minister of the Interior and discharged the duties of the office the very same day.

We have not space to comment to-day on the wonderful apparent carelessness which permitted so valuable a life to fall so easy a sacrifice. We shall take occasion next week to make a few suggestions on this head to the Government—to point out how such calamities may be guarded against in future: how murderers may be, at all events to some extent, deterred from similar crimes.

The murdered statesman was honoured by his Sovereign immediately creating him *Udaïjin*, the same posthumous honour which was paid to Kido, and a sum of 5,000 *yen* was sent to his family: he was further honoured by a public funeral, of which a friend sends us the following carefully minute account:

"Yesterday (11th instant) shortly after mid-day, the remains of Okubo Toshimitchi were committed to the tomb. During the forenoon his friends were admitted to the room in his house where the coffin was lying in state; and then, punctually at the time appointed, the procession left the house. At the foot of the hill leading to the Russian Legation, it was headed by a large body of troops.

"The ceremony was that of the Shinto religion. After the troops came priests, bearing branches of natural and artificial flowers. Then came the corpse of the coachman who was killed in his master's service—and here we may mention, that the body of the slaughtered horse was also buried near Okubo's grave. Then came the bier, preceded by *samurai*, bearing a white streamer inscribed with the name and rank of the deceased. The bier was in

the form of a large *norimon* of simple, new, white pine wood, but placed high up on the tops of the bearing beams, which rested on men's shoulders. Within this *norimon* was the coffin.

"Immediately after the bier, followed, as chief mourners, his sons, dressed in white: then followed, in carriages, the Princes of the Blood, the high officers of state, and the members of the Foreign Diplomatic corps. Some idea may be formed of the length of this procession, when we state that two hours elapsed before the cemetery was reached, and that the line of carriages, troops, &c. extended for the whole distance of a mile-and-a-half from the house of the deceased to the place of his sepulture.

"The streets were thronged by the populace, with here and there detachments of military students to keep the line. On reaching the cemetery, the coffin was placed under a shed which had been temporarily erected near the grave. On one side seats were prepared for the more distinguished guests: on the other for the relatives and friends of the deceased.

"On separate lacquered trays were then placed before the bier by the priests offerings of fresh vegetables, fish, rice &c. symbolizing greetings to the spirit of the deceased. When this had been done, with much obeisance and prayer, the High Priest read from a paper the titles and services of the dead statesman. Then sprigs of the *sasaki* flower were offered to the spirit. First, his near relatives advanced separately to the front of the bier, made obeisance and laid their twigs on a tray placed precisely in its centre. The Imperial Princes and then the officers of State followed. This part of the ceremony occupied about a couple of hours. The priests then again offered up prayers and removed the food offerings, and the foreign visitors were then informed that the ceremony was completed. After taking leave of the Princes, &c. they and all but the relatives and a few intimate friends, left—none but near connections of the dead being allowed to be present when the body is actually lowered into the grave."

Our space has been so taken up by the record of these sad events—and, we confess, our spirits so influenced by them—that we have neither room nor inclination, this week, to touch on lighter topics. Mr. Dave Carson, that well-known and clever public favourite, will, we are sure, forgive us for postponing till next week, criticism of his most amusing entertainment. 'Entertainment' one truly gets for one's money, for Mr. Carson never opens his mouth but he makes us laugh: and his witticisms, and particularly his local hits and allusions, are all so good-humoured and in such good taste, that a very prude can find nothing in them at which to be offended. When we compare his jesting to our own Punch's cartoons, and say that it exhibits the same talent, humour, tact and good feeling, we say none too much, and somewhat too little.

We are sorry to have noticed, by the way, in the *Daily Advertiser*, a quite uncalled-for rebuke to an allusion made last Thursday night to Okubo's murder. Our contemporary's reporter either mis-heard or misunderstood it: his remark conveys an entirely unfair and incorrect impression, and we trust we shall not see the criticism reprinted in the more widely circulated *Japan Mail*. We are glad to note that Mr. Carson will give us four performances next week, which will give us an opportunity of noticing the performances of his company in detail.

Quite a large quantity of matter has to be kept out of this Review this week by the mechanical exigencies of a mail-day falling on a Saturday. A 24 page paper will be given next week. \$3,500,000 of the New Loan has been already taken up.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO.
(FROM THE JAPANESE.)
BY F. BRINKLEY, CAPT. R. A.
ISHIKAWA GOYEMON.
Chapter XX. THE END.

FROM the outer margin of the eight thousand and eight valleys chosen by Kôbo Daishi as the site of the Kôya cloisters, the central sanctum was reached by the passage of three gates, each some two miles apart, and each affording ingress to a space more segregated than that without from the relations and liabilities of life. The first stood ever open, offering no obstruction to the feet of any pilgrim, but the second could only be entered by those who, receiving complete absolution for their sins and utterly renouncing the world, abandoned all its pomps and vanities beyond the threshold, while the third admitted none but the cenobites themselves, or such others as, by years of fasting and prayer, had proved themselves worthy to approach the holiest of the holy fanes. Once within the second gate, the weight of crime, however heavy, fell off, and the terror of punishment, however deserved, was dissipated; for the laws of man were abrogated by the mercy of the gods, and no power short of the Emperor's direct com-

mand could violate the sanctuary. Here then, under ordinary conditions, Hidetsugu might be safe, even though the guardians of his asylum did not petition for his pardon, but with such an enemy as Taiko, was security to be found anywhere within the four seas? Imperious, passionate, and never stopping short of complete achievement, what war-rantriness was there that he might not set aside even the sacred privileges of the cloister, and prefer the sin of sacrilege to the imputation of repulse? Perhaps this was what the priests feared when they proposed to intercede; certainly this was what Hidetsugu hoped when he refused to accept their intercession.

At daylight then, on the morning after the noble refugee's arrival, the abbot and fifty of the oldest cenobites assembled in the principal temple of the outer enclosure. The rays of the rising sun, struggling in through a forest of cedars, lit up here and there the altars of embossed lacquer and the tall silver vases that stood on either side, supporting immense clusters of golden lotus flowers, but through the thick duskiness brooding overhead, a few feeble tapers scarcely illumined the flowing robes and graceful outlines of the queens of heaven depicted on the ceiling. The incense smoke of ages encrusted the massive gilt pillars and the richly ornamented votive tablets that adorned the walls and niches of the huge aisle, which now resounded with the cadence of innumerable deep-toned drums and mellow bells, rising at regular intervals to an impetuous, crashing climax, and then sinking again through a series of ever-fainting, ever-separating strokes to a vibration gentler than its own echo.

On the Dais of Exhortation, flanked by ten priests, each bearing a bronze cymbal, knelt the abbot with his face to the altar, while behind him Hidetsugu and his five followers, with clasped hands and bowed heads, awaited the consummation of the rites that would qualify them for admission to the inviolable sanctuary.

When the seventh cadence of the drums and bells had passed almost imperceptibly into silence, the ten priests struck their cymbals three times, and then, led by the solemn voice of the old abbot, recited the scripture of the forty-eight precepts in a deep, never-changing monotone, that seemed to linger among the recesses of the temple long after the notes of the chaunters had ceased. Then the abbot, having laid aside his rosary, proceeded to shave Hidetsugu's head, and five of the priests that had knelt on either side, performed each a similar office for the Earl of Awazaki, Bansaku and the three pages.

This ceremony marked the segregation of the novice from the carnal world. It was followed by a decade of prayers, at the conclusion of which the abbot invested Hidetsugu with the sacred ephod.*

At the moment of investiture, the whole fifty priests united their voices in a solemn incantation, and just as the end of the band was inserted in the jade ring, the drums and bells renewed their cadence, welcoming the admission of another heart to the mysteries of the sinless life.

Thus, amid clouds of incense and voices of orison, the six men, not wholly free from a sad consciousness of death in life, passed through the gate of sanctuary into the seclusion and security of the second cloister. Here the deer browsed and the pheasants roosted in the very gardens of the temples, while the white egret fished undisturbed in the stream that rippled by the avenue's margin, for even the timidity of bird and beast slept in the shadows of peace that from century to century had deepened over the eight thousand valleys of Koya.

The temple assigned to the Minister and his followers stood on a plateau overlooking a series of cascades, from which a constant breath of freshness and murmur of tranquillity ascended to the glades of the pine forest above. Under a league of overhanging bough and toppling cliff, the white water tumbled and foamed over lofty ledges and round strangely shaped rocks, or crept in and out of vaulted grottoes where the ouzel built and the king-fisher watched,

* The ephod was of crimson brocade, ornamented with four plaits and seven loops—the former representing the pillars of doctrine, while of the latter, the central one typified Shaka, and the six others his disciples, Kasho and Anan, as well as the goals of government, life, increase and omniscience. One end of the band for suspending the ephod from the neck was permanently attached, but the other was free, so that at the moment of investiture it might be passed through a jade ring fastened to the upper corner on the left. This ring was symbolical of the human heart, while the whole ephod represented the pure, passionless life inculcated by the doctrines of Buddha.

F. B.

or sometimes dividing into a net-work of babbling rivulets, wandered at hazard through wilderness of immense boulders and many-coloured pebbles. Thus amid all the restful isolation of these endless valleys, there was no sense of either sad silence or melancholy loneliness, for whether throbbing in the breeze of evening, or echoing full and sonorous in the calm of sunrise, the pulses of the cataract sounded always like the beating of a mighty heart, and the rippling of the stream like the laughter of a happy spirit. It was indeed a region well fitted to invite comfortable repose or mature dreamy philosophy, but withal much too lovely either to be itself forgotten or to suffer memories of kindred beauties to sleep.

And so Hidetsugu and his followers learned, when a few days of tranquillity had somewhat lulled their sense of instant peril. It was hard to look beyond so much that was fair in the present and contemplate only a hereafter of apathy and oblivion; hard when the silence was stirred by mellow notes of vesper bells or plaintive chaunts of returning pilgrims, not to follow their echoes in fancy, as they rolled up the ravines and out over the mountain tops, towards homes where love awaited reunions that could never more take place; and hardest of all, after the long watches of the night had been haunted by phantoms of departed pleasures and broken hopes, to recommence in the grey morning a never varying routine of penance and of prayer.

Ten days had passed since the admission of the exiles to the sanctuary, and as yet no communication of any sort had reached them from the outer world. It was no longer possible to doubt that the Regent awaited a pretext to be merciful. Often of late had this conviction forced itself upon Hidetsugu, accompanied also by another reflection: he remembered that men, misconstruing his silence, might accuse him of seeking sanctuary and neglecting justification. At last therefore, he resolved to adopt his followers' counsels and accept the cenobites' intercession. But was there still time to employ that intercession, or had the limit of long-suffering been reached?

It was the evening of the tenth day. Hidetsugu sat by the open verandah, watching the breath of the river creep soft and snow-like above the pine-tops. The valley was still in shade and darkness, for the moon had not climbed to the mountain summits, but far away in the west, a tender light brooded like a reflection of by-gone happiness, and between the opening of two wooded peaks, an illimitable ocean of silver seemed to roll its lustrous waves even to the sources of the placid star-light.

Often in seasons of sickening suspense, when every token by which the truth might be deciphered is inaccessible, and hope has lost strength to exorcise the vague phantoms of imagination, many a trifle, disregarded in the health of reason—the shadow of a passing cloud, the moaning of the sea, the fall of a flower, or, it may be, the song of a distant bird—seems fraught with a strange significance, and lays the mind under the influence of a spell hard to be broken or cast off. It may be that even as sometimes, on the verge of the grave, the current of accumulated years sweeps away the superstructure of learning and experience, and drifts us back to the simplicity and guilelessness of early childhood, so perhaps the weight of pain and sorrow, wearying the wings of ambition and assurance, draws us at the last down to the bosom of nature into closer and closer communion with the things that shall presently be the companions of our eternal sleep, until finally their language becomes intelligible to us, and we read in their phases the story of our destinies.

Thus it seemed to Hidetsugu that the past and future of his own life were truly depicted in that sky of summer twilight, for the dim refulgence fading eastward into dusk and distance, represented the glory and gladness that had once illumined his days, while the horror of approaching fate found its type in an immensity of blackness that raised itself slowly from the southern horizon with lurid depths and mantling wreaths, like the smoke of a burning world. Not his heart only, but all nature, seemed to be oppressed by a sense of approaching catastrophe. The voice of the river lost its laughter and lapsed into a long tremulous moan; the air was loaded with stillness, and such a languor was abroad that the dove ceased to coo and the cicada to drone, while the lizard paused in the moss by the cedar roots and the toad sat motionless and expectant under the fern arches: no sound, no motion, save once the boom of a passing beetle and some-

times the fall of a Mimosa petal into the foaming stream below. The dying summer listened fearfully for the foot-fall of the hurricane that was coming to clothe it in the russet pall of autumn, and carry it to its grave among scattered blossoms and prematurely withered leaves.

Suddenly, while Hidetsugu watched, the noise of the cataract was hushed, and the pine trees on the hill side trembled and waved their arms as though in terrified supplication. Another moment and the voice of the storm would break the silence. He turned, and raising his hands, was on the point of summoning the pages from the ante-room, when the door opening, disclosed Bansaku kneeling on the threshold. The dim light of a solitary taper was yet sufficient to reveal the pallor of the Comptroller's face and the despairing trouble of his look, little like the aspect with which he had escorted his master from the oratory two hours before.

This evident distress elicited a momentary response from Hidetsugu's heart, but almost immediately mastering his emotion, he beckoned Bansaku in, and anticipating the main part of his intelligence, asked briefly :—

"Who has come, Bansaku?"

"The Earls of Gifu and Iyo, and the Inquisitor, Fukuhara."

"With what following?"

"Ten thousand cavalry, your Excellency."

Even as the comptroller spoke, the first blast of the hurricane came rushing up the gorge and dashed itself wildly among the woods and against the temples. Hidetsugu turned with a shudder, and saw that the stillness of the valley had been changed into a clashing of boughs and a quivering of foliage, and that troops of dusky clouds, swooping down like demons of destruction, were chasing each other along the hill tops and leaping with giddy speed from cliff to cliff. The air too was filled with strange sounds—the hoarse muttering of the storm, the crash of snapping branches, the sighing of torn grasses and the rustle of whirling leaves—but over and above all he seemed to hear a ring of innumerable bridles and the hum of a passing multitude. The sanctity of these cloisters, he thought bitterly, guarantees them as little against the fury of the hurricane as their asylum guards me from the Regent's implacability.

"Have the Earls announced their intention of seeking me here," he asked, "or is our meeting to take place without?"

Bansaku looked wonderingly at his master, but made no attempt to reply until Hidetsugu repeated his question. He then answered :—"Your Excellency surely knows that it is impossible for the Earls to penetrate the precincts of the second cloister. They can but await your pleasure without, and your Excellency does not think, I presume, of abandoning this asylum and deliberately placing yourself in your enemies' power."

Hidetsugu laughed ironically. "Think you, Bansaku," he said, "that ten thousand cavalry have come like pilgrims to do homage to an effete monastic privilege; or that I will forfeit the respect of brave men by exposing these helpless priests to the ruin resistance would inevitably involve? No! Bansaku. This sanctuary may be able to protect a common criminal against his executioner, but it is powerless to avert Taiko's vengeance from the man he believes his rival. I will go to meet the Regent's messengers. Whatever their errand be, it cannot add to my humiliation, since that is already complete, nor disappoint my hopes, since they have now ceased to exist."

Bansaku made no attempt to dispute this resolution. Perhaps weary of waiting, he welcomed anything that limited suspense; perhaps his brave heart revolted at the idea of hiding in a temple, while an enemy clamoured at the gates.

Brief as were the refugees' preparations for departure, they had scarcely been completed, before many hundred priests assembled to escort their guests to the gate of sanctuary. The old abbot himself was there, endeavouring by promises of remonstrance and, if need be, of resistance, to calm the cenobites' indignation at this violation of their ancient privileges, and when Hidetsugu passed to the vestibule, the glare of a hundred torches illumined a sea of faces agitated by a storm of wrath and sympathy.

Observing that Bansaku carried a parcel wrapped in crimson silk and carefully secured, Hidetsugu enquired what it was. The comptroller, without replying, knelt down, and removing the silk wrapper, displayed three dirks, richly mounted and bearing on their lacquered sheaths the prime Minister's arms. Hidetsugu, recognizing gifts made by himself in happier days to the comptroller

and two favourite pages—gifts little destined for such an end as they were now about to serve—turned away with a trembling lip, and had well nigh suffered his anguish to overcome him, but Bansaku, laughing merrily, remade his parcel, and said as he placed it in the palanquin :—"precious gifts these, that enable us to join your Excellency's journey beyond the reach of slander and injustice."

No other words were spoken. The six men set out in silence to traverse the distance that in all probability measured their course to the grave. Converse indeed, even had it been desired, would have been impossible, for the mad hurricane made sport of every sound save its own din. Now, like some savage monster, it seized and worried the tall cedars, roaring and raving all the while as though delirious with anger; anon, like a malignant demon, it swept shrieking up the glen and dashed through the mountain passes with a howl of impotent frenzy; at one moment it hurled an avalanche of sand, shingle and twigs against the staggering travellers; the next, it gathered the foam of a waterfall and dashed it in their faces like a shower of snow-flakes, while from time to time a blaze of lightning displayed the cloud-piled sky and reeling woods, or shone upon some belated bird struggling vainly to recover its accustomed perch.

It was nearly midnight when the Minister and his followers reached the principal temple of the outer enclosure. The gates stood open, and the court-yard was full of horses, halted wherever fence or gable afforded seeming shelter from the storm, while crowds of armed men occupied the out-houses and refectories, or cowered under the thatched eaves. The Earls of Gifu and Iyo, accompanied by a score of inferior officers, kneeled in the vestibule to receive the Minister, but Hidetsugu, scarcely noticing their obeisance, passed proudly to the chamber he had occupied on the night of his arrival.

There by his directions a temporary dais was contrived and a silk curtain hung before it. For the rest, the construction of the room readily admitted certain details of arrangement sufficiently assimilating the disposition of an audience chamber.

This empty semblance of state might well have been neglected at such a time, especially in the case of one whose relations with the outer world had been virtually severed by the ceremony of consecration, but an unreasoning attachment to the forms and fashions of old habit is one of the evidences that most sadly attest prostration in the hour of our mortal extremity.

These preparations completed, the envoys were admitted: Fukushima Earl of Gifu, Ikeda Earl of Iyo, and the Inquisitor Fukuhara. The three men, kneeling on the right and left at some distance from the dais, bowed their heads but remained speechless, for seeing his former friend and ruler unable to command even the shadow of his late power and magnificence, and knowing the terrible sentence he was himself charged to execute, Fukushima could only struggle to restrain his tears, and his colleagues, little less affected, did not dare to anticipate their leader.

"I understand you, Fukushima," said Hidetsugu at last. "Your message is one that can be conveyed without words, and its object might have been achieved without the aid of an army. Ten thousand men are hardly necessary to overcome my reluctance to die."

"I have the Regent's orders to assist at your Excellency's suicide," answered the Earl in a low unwilling voice, and still preserving his attitude of obeisance.

"Were you chosen on account of your youth or in deference to your love of novelty?" enquired Hidetsugu sneeringly. "Have fortune and my followers, think you, so completely cast me off, that I cannot at the last command a hand to place me in the road to Hades?" Then passing suddenly from raillery to passion, he seized a long sword that lay beside him, and flashing it from its scabbard, held it pointed towards the Earl. "Here," he cried, "is the friend that shall serve me in this extremity, neither will an arm to wield it truly be wanting. The head of the Prime Minister shall not fall under the unproved weapon of a boy."

As he spoke, his blood-shot eye and choking utterance betrayed a fury on the verge of vanquishing control. The envoys, without daring to reply, carried their trembling hands to the hilts of their dirks, and at the same moment the hurricane, as though it recognized a kindred spirit in this paroxysm of rage, threw its strong arms about the temple, and rocked the huge building backwards and forwards with a tumult of savage delight.

Hidetsugu retained this position of menace for a moment,

but only a moment; for as the wind that, even while it tosses the branches of the mountain cherries, bends their blossoms within reach, so the fierce despair that drove his thoughts upon violence and the crash of combat, summoned also a heart-stirring memory of the things he was about to leave behind. He thought of Chika, of his children, of those he had loved, carelessly in his prosperity, wildly in his adversity; thought of the many faithful vassals and friends whose fate in a great measure depended on the fashion of his own death, and so, yielding at last to a nobler impulse, silently sheathed his sword, and assumed his old air of proud indifference.

Then in a gentle but firm voice, he addressed the envoys:—

"Attend well, I pray you," he said, "to these my last words, and let the memory of what I have once been persuade you to interpret them faithfully hereafter. I have not prolonged my life till now with any hope of respite, nor yet because I set much store by it, but simply because my innocence might have been attained by a precipitate suicide. I have now the Regent's orders to die, and I obey them, praying only that he may never be so unhappy as to discover their injustice. Even the statements of our foes merit credence when the proximity of the grave renders deception unprofitable. Tell the Regent my father then, that I, within sight of my tomb and glad to give him this last proof of my loyalty, stake the repose of my soul on the blamelessness of those that have loved me and served me here. Let my fate satisfy my enemies, and do you, if you value the blessing of a dying man, join your supplications to mine, that the darkness into which I am now passing may at least be lightened by the knowledge of my vassals' undisturbed happiness."

With these words, Hidetsugu rose and left the room, attended by his five followers. The envoys also, not a little moved by what they had heard, were presently about to withdraw, when their exit was barred by a multitude of priests, who at a sign from the abbot flocked in from either side,—completely filling the chamber and its approaches. The old abbot then prostrated himself before the Earl of Gifu, and in words rendered almost unintelligible by emotion, conjured him to refrain from violating a sanctuary where for seven hundred years no deed of blood had ever been perpetrated. Hidetsugu, he said, was no longer amenable to human laws; he had abandoned the world, and entered an asylum where only the hands of the gods could reach him, and though as a soldier he scorned to ask for mercy, yet was he none the less protected by the sacred tutelage of the saint Kobo Daishi. In the name, therefore, of the seven thousand cenobites of Koya, the abbot prayed the Earls to take no further steps in the matter until they had submitted these considerations to the Regent, adding that the rejection of their suit would signify nothing less than the dis-establishment of the Koya Cloisters.

The Earl, before replying, rose, made his way through the priests, and carrying his sword from its place beyond the threshold, laid it at the abbot's side. "Father," he said, "your remonstrance is just, but were I to convey it to the Regent, or delay till you had done so, I should inevitably be accounted the Minister's accomplice. I prefer death to such an imputation. If then you are determined to oppose Taiko's orders, kill me first and proceed afterwards at your leisure."

So saying, he respectfully presented the hilt of his sword to the abbot, but the old man pushing it away, turned and gazed appealingly at the other envoys, hoping to detect some token, however feeble, of pity or vacillation. But there was none. The Minister's fate was sealed, and the sanctuary of Koya doomed to be dishonoured.

Hidetsugu passed the remainder of the night alone, seeking vainly to solve that problem over which so many a heart has broken and will yet break,—how to say farewell. Life is but a sum of separations, and yet we never learn to part. The streaming eye, the close embrace, the yearning gaze, the waving hand; few though the forms be and easily rehearsed, no man has ever yet so fulfilled them as not to be overtaken by the end, before he knew that he had reached the beginning. Time is not long enough to achieve, speech not large enough to define, and love not cold enough to conceive the act that we call "taking leave." It is done we know not how, concluded but never completed, and is nevertheless that with which humanity could least afford to dispense; for much as it may seem at the moment to sharpen pain and multiply tears, without it the possibility of resignation were inadmissible. Not indeed that it induces fortitude, nor yet because its outcome is often a precious reminiscence destined afterwards to often sorrow and survive even the hope of reunion, but be-

cause to see once more before parting, and to speak with once again before separation, are the two ideal solaces for which affection utterly refuses to accept any substitutes. Alas, and again alas, for him who in his last hours finds himself irremediably debarred from such consolations, and unaided by any present sympathy to escape from that which alone makes parting painful,—memory! And if to the desolate misery of such a time; if to its endless repetition of pictures that grow more vivid, more frequent and more exquisitely pathetic, as the moments for contemplating them become shorter; if to the anguished yearning that struggles to fix and hold commune with images of fond faces and ancient kindnesses, which like the shadows of clouds in a gliding stream, are reflected in the depths and effaced by the flow of our tears; if to all this be added the bitter consciousness of an unjust doom, the knowledge that many of our friends will be involved in our ruin, and the certainty that those we have most loved will be constrained to accept the caresses of our cruellest enemies, truly the sum might well suffice to crush a stouter heart than Hidetsugu's.

At daylight he summoned his five followers to his presence. The storm was hushed, and the feverish atmosphere had been cooled by a deluge of soft rain that still dripped from the soft tendrils of the wild vine and glistened in the scarlet cups of the cockscomb. Earth, wood and stream exhaled breath of gratitude inexpressibly fresh and fragrant, and all around, the birds poured forth an ecstasy of happy song. Alas! alas! how to close the eyes for ever on so much that was fair, how to part bravely from so much that wooed delicious sojourn?

The six men were dressed entirely in white and carried neither sword nor dirk. For the rest, with the exception of a pallor more or less marked, and a certain unnatural deliberation of speech and movement, no evidence of their purpose was apparent.

Bansaku advancing, silently placed the three dirks before the Minister and then retired to his place. Hidetsugu, taking two others from the alcove behind him, added them to the number, whereupon his five followers exchanged looks of perplexity and astonishment.

"Risseido," said the Minister, addressing the youngest of the pages, a lad of some seventeen summers, "you are too young to die. You have well fulfilled all the duty that loyalty required of you. Return now to Kiyoto, and let it hereafter be your care sometimes to burn incense at our graves."

But at these words the boy, who to the quiet resolution of his companions, had hitherto added a laughing indifference that seemed inseparable from his merry face, bowed his head and burst into a flood of tears. "Will your Excellency," he sobbed, "deprive me at the last moment of a privilege which, though little merited, is now the sole object of my hope and desire. Hands worthier than those of one for ever disgraced if he survive, will not be wanting to tend your Excellency's grave, nor will your memory lack a shrine in hearts unaffected by the shame and sorrow that would be my inseparable companions. Do not say that I am too young to die, since I am old enough to be dishonoured."

Hidetsugu, too much moved to reply, added a sixth dirk to the number of those lying beside him, and presently made a sign to Bansaku, who thereupon threw open the door of the antechamber where the abbot and the three envoys were seated.

Six lacquer trays were now brought in, and on each of them Hidetsugu with his own hands placed a dirk and a roll of paper. This done he turned to his followers and addressed them thus:—"My friends, chance and your own unequalled devotion have willed that you alone of all my vassals should accompany me to my last resting place. If it be true that the seeds sown here blossom in the life beyond the grave, surely the flower of my gratitude will bloom about your feet hereafter. Time might have dealt more kindly by us, seeing that we pass from its very threshold into eternity, but I at least make no complaint, since I am saved the pain of parting from you my most faithful, most loved followers. And now, since to linger would only make life dearer, let us hasten to achieve the destiny that fate has willed for us. I would fain have preceded you all to the grave, but I remember that when I am no longer here, you may not find leisure to die peacefully. Sasabe therefore will perform the last office of friendship for me, when I shall have done the same for you."

So saying he handed a tray to Bansaku and each of the three pages, who receiving them with an obeisance, descended calmly into the garden, and seated themselves among the

scattered leaves and bruised blossoms that the storm had cast down before the verandah.

They then, having first bared their bodies to the waist, raised the dirks for a moment reverentially to their foreheads, and afterwards unsheathing them, wrapped the blades in paper to within three or four inches of the points. The envoys meanwhile watched all these preparations with real or assumed indifference, but the old abbot hid his face and sobbed aloud.

Hidetsugu now took his sword and moved towards the verandah. Risseido sat on the extreme right of the four men. He had recovered all his gay unconcern, and when he heard his master's foot-fall on the steps that led to the garden, he turned and said with a laugh:—"We shall await your Excellency on the banks of the Sandzugawa."*

Bansaku, hearing these words, carried his dirk forward by way of signal, and his three companions imitated his motion.

But at that moment the earliest breeze of morning, parting the cedar boughs, came and laid its soft fingers on the doomed men's brows, at the same time breathing into their ears a peaceful sound of plashing water and the plaintive cooing of a ring-dove. For an instant they paused involuntarily, and gathering a deep breath of this fragrant air, exhaled it in a long sigh of exquisite regret. It seemed as though nature, moved to pity by their patient suffering, had uttered and sought this last expression of farewell.

"*Namu Amida Butsu*" said the comptroller, and almost simultaneously the four men, plunging the dirks into their left sides under the ribs, forced them slowly round to the right. Hidetsugu raising his long sword, with unerring blows severed the necks of the three pages, one after another, but when he came to Bansaku, the comptroller turning, raised his bloody hand and whispered:—"Thank heaven that we have been allowed to die before we had time to be traitors."

Up to the moment that Bansaku's head fell, Hidetsugu had betrayed no symptom of emotion, but as he turned to ascend the steps of the verandah his strength seemed suddenly to forsake him, so that he staggered like a drunken man. Recovering himself however by a supreme effort, he reached his former seat, and facing to the west, prepared himself hastily for the end.

"*Sasabe*," he said, as he handed his blood-stained sword to the Earl, "I will thank you when we meet on the road to the land of Shadows. Let us hasten to join those that are now waiting for us there."

The next moment his head fell, and the Earl, kneeling for an instant with deep reverence beside his master's body, stabbed himself twice in the breast and throat and followed his companions to the Life of Rest.

On the night of the third day after the above events, a man passed up the avenue that led to the castle of the Baron of Sawayama. His features were concealed by a hood, and he carried in his hand what appeared to be a roughly folded bundle of white silk. This, on arriving at the gate, he placed under his arm, hiding it carefully at the same time with his long sleeve, and then, drawing his hood partially back, revealed to the astonished guards a face which though ghastly pale and haggard, they recognized as that of their master, Ishida Mitsunari.

He entered the castle without a word, and shut himself into one of the most remote chambers. There, having deposited his bundle in the alcove, he threw himself on the ground, and remained for a long, long time, now writhing as though in physical agony, now tossing himself about spasmodically as though a fever burned in his brain.

At last he rose, and with trembling fingers began to untie the bundle. The process was a slow one, for each ply unrolled seemed to inspire more and more horror and reluctance, and often, drawing back his hand, before it had even touched the silk, he paused for several moments with averted gaze and suspended breath.

What tale of horror is this lying hid in the blood-stained folds of the silk? The head of a girl, beautiful as a poet's fairest fancy, her half-closed eyes still seeming to look—but oh! with what a glassy coldness—through a fringe of lashes among which a tear is still entangled, and her long black hair clinging closely about the ghastly wound that encircles her snow-white throat.

Oh! Chika, lovely, loving Chika, come to death by the wiles of the miserable man that now, from darkness to dawn, knells spell-bound before your mutilated head, would to God

* The River Styx.

that you had power to change into reality the semblance of apathy that dwells in his stony gaze and rigid features, for much as you have suffered, you were too gentle not to pity so terrible a punishment as Ishida Mitsunari is doomed to endure for your sake. Never more for him will the calm of a summer morning be untroubled by exhaustless tears, nor the watches of a winter's night be unpeopled by pitiless remorse; never for him will the whisper of a hidden anguish cease to echo in the cadence of the breeze, nor the discord of a broken heart rest from marring the music of life; for only gnawing misery will be his companion through all the hollow pageant of his gilded days, until the evening when men shall find his headless body on the battle field of Osaka, and in his bosom a tress of black hair wrapped in the death song of his murdered love:—*

"The Snow-shroud drifts from the blue,
"The dead leaf drops from the tree,
"But the blight and the bloom shall never be two,
"Nor the spring come back for me."

THE END.

* Hidetsugu's children—two boys and three girls—and his thirty-four wives and concubines, were all beheaded by Taiko's orders, and the Palace of Pleasure razed to the ground.

THE SONG OF THE MILL.

When summer airs are fresh and sweet,
And clover blossoms new,
And birds rejoice, and young lambs bleat;
And skies are clear and blue.
How merrily the mill goes round:
How merrily goes the mill,
As the hopper clacks with a cheery sound,
And echoes o'er the hill!

When age sits shivering by the fire,
And wintry wolds are white,
And youth doth chill his warm desire,
And frosty earth-winds bite:
Still merrily the mill goes round:
And merrily goes the mill,
As the hopper clacks with a cheery sound,
When all the world is still.

We know no strife that plagues the great;
No care that kills the small:
We live above the reach of fate,
And therefore fear no fall,
So merrily the mill goes round:
So merrily goes the mill,
As the hopper clacks with a cheery sound,
And rings across the hill.

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NOTES AND QUERIES.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE TIMES OF TAIKO; From the Japanese. By F. BRINKLEY Capt. R.A.

Ishikawa Goyemon. Chap. 20. THE END.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 18. MAY 4, 1878.

Fire Insurance in Japan. The Dispute in the Silk Egg Trade. Paragraphs.

Notes of the Week. First Meeting of the Yokohama Jockey Club.

Papers of the German Asiatic Society. Collective Fire Insurance in Japan.

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The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 19.

The Wreck of the *Shikoku*.

Mail Steamer Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c.

Advertisements.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

STATEMENT OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

	Passengers &c.	Goods &c.	Total.
TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION. (Miles open 18) for week ended April 20th 1878...	\$ 8,295.98	\$ 813.34	\$ 9,109.32
for corresponding period last year.	6,832.60	601.24	7,433.84
	Increase.....		\$ 1,665.48
KIOTO—KOBE SECTION. (Miles open 47½) for week ended May 5th 1878	\$13,592.546	\$1,204.772	\$14,797.318
for corresponding period last year			\$ 9,701.696
	Increase.....		\$ 5,095.600

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 17th, 1878.

IMPORTS:—The holiday of the Spring Race week rendered unnecessary in last number any report upon a market in which nothing was doing. We have now a fortnight's operations to review.

Our lists of quotations show a decline in value of both Yarns and Shirtings, from heavy arrivals of goods—of those contracted for, of course,—of others unsold in advance, attracted to the market as a consequence of the report of sudden demand and large sales to arrive. Stocks are consequently very heavy, and native merchants are playing, apparently with fair prospect of success, the same game which they have played on more than one previous occasion. Having induced the import of the goods by their sudden and large demand some months ago, without being required to deposit security in the shape of bargain money, they now, almost unanimously, throw up their old contracts and offer lower and lower prices, though the course of native exchange has been in favour of honesty. Some few houses are meeting them, but importers that are able to hold prefer to decline selling. It is much to be regretted that Japanese law gives the foreign merchant who has not provided himself with the security of bargain money, no redress against these breaches of contract. If combination among foreigners were possible,—instead of competition to quit goods at gradually declining and ultimately disastrous rates, things would soon right themselves, and the stocks would be cleared off at original contract prices, which show a fair profit: for there is no doubt now that there is a large legitimate demand in the interior for Yarns. Even the display for a short time of such determination among foreign merchants would suffice to break down the present combination of the native brokers; but as we can see no prospect of this taking place, we are forced to fall back on our quotations, and report the outlook of the market as gloomy.

In all other foreign goods, the business done is on the most limited scale with nominal prices as per our quotations. Exceptions to the general depression are KEROSENE OIL, which, being in few hands is firmly held at slightly better figures, and FORMOSAN SUGAR, which maintains its position and is resolutely held for higher rates.

EXPORTS:—SILK. The news from Europe being considered a little more pacific, buyers have shown somewhat more inclination to operate in this market. But very little business has been actually done, the exhaustion of stocks and very mixed character of the last dregs of the season's produce preventing orders being filled. The same silk goes in and out, from one inspecting godown to another, and only about 170 shipping bales have been actually settled.

Prices are slightly higher, nominally, but with the small business doing it is difficult to give quotations of a fully reliable nature for all sorts: we confine ourselves to such as represent actual business done in a few sorts. They will be found in their usual place.

Stock in Yokohama we estimate at about 800 Japanese bales. Total Export to date is 21,147 bales against 20,432 bales, at the same period last season. It must borne in mind by our readers abroad that, bales having been made up heavier this year, the 700 odd bales of excess does not fully represent the difference between the exports of the two seasons.

THE NEW CROP.—We are happy to say that there is every prospect of a good and plentiful crop.

Though in the Shinshiu districts, cold weather and a late Spring have kept back the worms somewhat, and in Joshiu and Mibashi they are not very far advanced, in some other districts,—for instance, in the neighbourhood of Atami, they are so well on that in ten days or so they may be expected to begin to spin. Rather more rain than has been desirable has fallen, but fortunately there has been no hail, and though a certain amount of damage has been done to the mulberry leaves in some parts by caterpillars, these have promptly been destroyed and a good supply of food for the silkworms may be considered as secured. It is to be hoped that the valuable recommendations of Herr Greeven will be attended to regarding protection against the Uji. New silk in small parcels may be looked for in about six weeks.

TEA:—We have not thought it of any use, until to-day, to make any but cursory mention of this market. We are now in a position to write with more certainty and fuller information. Since the opening of the season about 11,700 piculs of the new crop have been settled, besides a few small parcels bought before the 1st of May, by purchasers whose operations have said more for their means than their judgment. The quality is on an average better than that of last season at the same period, and the scale of prices very decidedly lower, native merchants having by experience found out the futility of over-holding First Crop Teas.

BLACK TEA:—Several samples of this have been shown, and have found buyers at \$28 to \$32 per picul. The appearance of the leaf hardly warrants such high rates, while its quality in the cup is ill suited to the London market. A few small fancy parcels may find buyers at prices which will bring exporters out, but the bulk, we should think, would barely fetch 1s. 0d. per lb. and we should consider it bad property to hold long in warehouse. As only a few small parcels have as yet come in, we are hardly prepared to give quotations or to give a more decided opinion. At the close of the month we shall be in a position to do so.

Native merchants assert that producers up-country are so dissatisfied with the prices realized by the first crop, that they purpose converting the whole second crop into Blacks. Should they do so, we believe they will find that their experiment will have a most unsatisfactory result.

EXCHANGE:—There has been a fair business done during the week. Private paper on London has been sold to some extent at rates varying from 4s. 0½d. to 4s. 4½d., and at the latter figure the market closes firm. Bank has been done at 3s. 11½d. for 6 months' sight and 3s. 11½d. @ 3s. 11½d. for 60 days.

On Hongkong and Seanghai there is not much business to report.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d. sight, 3s. 11d. Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents, 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 5.00. sight 4.99. Documents, 6 months' sight 5.00½. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 72½. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 1½ o/o disc. Private, 10 days' sight 1½ o/o disc. San Francisco Bank sight 95. New York Bank, sight 95. BULLION. Gold Yen 392, Kinsats 427½.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.

(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
Feb. 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 6	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S'MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	" 79 Jan. 3	" 79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	" 79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	" 79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 23

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 6	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
" 22	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	" 79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	" 79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	" 79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	" 79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 3

*. The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

*. No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

*. Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

*. Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
May 10	Burmese	Luck	Brit. str.	1,268	London		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 11	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong	May 4	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 11	Marco Polo	Breckwoldt	Ger. barq.	358	Takao		Sugar	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 11	Orestes	Robertson	Brit. str.	1,357	London		General	Buttfield & Swire.
" 11	Globe	Harrison	Brit. barq.	736	Hongkong		Ballast	To Order.
" 11	Modeste	Mead	H. B. M.'s ship	1,913	Cruise			
" 11	Belgie	Meyer	Brit. str.	2,627	San Francisco	Apr. 20	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 12	Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Jap. str.	1,704	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 12	Egeria	Douglas	H. B. M.'s ship	1,011	Kobe			
" 13	Orissa	Briscoe	Brit. str.	1,119	Hongkong	May 6	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 13	Shario Maru	Mayes	Jap. str.	800	Kobe	May 11	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 14	Suminoye Maru	Nye	Jap. str.	802	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 15	Coulmakyle	Gordon	Brit. ship	579	London		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 15	Oceanic	Metcalfe	Brit. str.	3,700	Hongkong	May 9	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 17	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai and ports	May 9	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Burmese*, from London via China ports:—Mr. P. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. White, and 2 children; and 2 Chinese on deck.
 Per Frch. str. *Tibre*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. Bata, Witt, Edal, C. S. Taylor, and Mr. and Mrs. Long Yek.
 Per Brit. str. *Orestes*, from London via Hongkong:—Mr. Hirobe, Mr. and Mrs. Tari Ando and Pittman.
 Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. A. H. Groom, H. Kataoka, Y. Sawa, A. Pavenstedt, H. Hayasaki, M. Nakayama, D'Iffanger, M. Yokowo, F. Fukushima, Y. Kawai, G. Gamamoto, and E. Bernard in cabin; and 1 Chinese in steerage.
 For Hongkong:—Messrs. R. Howie and N. C. Stevens in-cabin; Santo Goni and 146 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Jap. str. *Shario-Maru*, from Kobe:—Captain W. C. Law, Messrs. Johnson, P. Roulez, and Spooner.
 Per Brit. str. *Orissa*, from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Wright and infant, Mrs. Foulger in cabin; and 4 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Brit. str. *Oceanic*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. C. F. A. Sangster and C. T. Pasiday in cabin; and 7 in steerage. For America: Miss M. Callaghan, Dr. H. M. Martin, u.s.n., Miss B. Emerson, Messrs. O. E. Edwards, A. Grundy, and H. E. Dircks in cabin; and 575 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Wetmore, Miss McClatchie, Mr. A. Fernando, Spanish Consul, Revd. D. Lamont, Dr. and Mrs. Langard, Mrs. Ballagh, Miss McNeal, Mr. and Mrs. Yasui, 2 Misses Ono, Messrs. Tracy, W. H. Roberts, A. Walsh, Winckler, Hayman, Wichmann, Kate, Fukuda, Sugiyama, Hayakawa, Suhashi, and Takada in cabin; and 5 Europeans, 342 Japanese, and 7 Chinese in steerage. For America: Miss M. C. Nelson, Miss Sizzu Bernard, Lieutenant P. Gaist, Messrs. C. C. Jewitt, H. P. McClatchie, and John Green in cabin.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.
 FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17; "Bon Accord," Mar. 21.
 FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Hase," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24; "City of Boston," Mar. 8; "G. H. Ingersoll," Mar. 15.
 FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
 FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.
 FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.
 FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.
 FROM ANJEE:—"Fair Leader," Apr. 3; "Fleetwing," Apr. 5; "Mary Goodell," Apr. 9.
 FROM HONGKONG:—"Tanna," May 13.
 FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"City of Tokio," May 2.
 FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," S. S. "Egoan," S. S. "Imbat," "Berwickshire." At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str. May 28th; Hongkong M. M. str. May 22nd; P. M. str. May 22nd; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. May 24rd.

CARGO:—Per Frch. str. *Tibre*, from Hongkong:—General Merchandize, 3,219 packages; Sugar, 3,081 bags; Treasure, \$50,000.00.
 Per Brit. str. *Orissa*, from Hongkong:—Specie, 15 boxes; Silver plate, 1 case; Watches and Jewellery, 2 boxes; Bales, 145; Iron, 2,352 pieces; Sundries, 1,693 packages.
 Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$23,345.00, and yen 137,200.00.

REPORTS:—The S. S. *Tibre* reports:—Left Hongkong at 9 p.m. on the 4th May. Fine weather throughout. Arrived in Yokohama at 4 a.m. this morning (11th May). English mail arrived in Hongkong a few hours before we left.
 The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Sailed from San Francisco April 20th at 12 noon. April 22nd, in latitude 36 degrees 56 seconds North, longitude 133 degrees West passed steam-ship *City of Tokio*, all well and bound East. May 8th, in latitude 34 degrees 55 seconds North, longitude 161 degrees East exchanged mails, &c., with steam-ship *China*, bound East, all well. Experienced moderate, variable winds throughout passage. Arrived at Yokohama May 12th, at 4.30 p.m.
 The P. & O. steamer *Orissa* reports:—Left Hongkong, at noon, on the 6th inst. Experienced fine weather. Light North Easterly winds to the 11th; 11th to 13th, South Westerly.
 The British steamer *Oceanic* reports:—Left Hongkong, May 9th, at 4.25 p.m. Light southerly winds, and fine weather the entire trip. Arrived May 15th, at 10.45 a.m.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
May 10	Sumner R. Mead	Dixon	Am. ship	1,117	Hakodate		General	Kingdon & Schwabe.
" 10	Mount Washington	Perkins	Am. ship	1,217	Kobe		General	C. & J. Trading Co.
" 12	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 13	Meiji Maru	Peters	Jap. str.	1,010	Cruise			Lighthouse Department.
" 13	Kokonoyo Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Hakodate	May 17	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 15	Volga	Rolland	Frch. str.	1,502	Hongkong	May 21	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 15	Belgie	Meyer	Brit. str.	2,627	Hongkong	May 21	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 15	August	Reis	Ger. brig	208	Kobe		Ballast	Simon, Evers & Co.
" 15	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	2,146	Shanghai and ports	May 23	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Meiji-Maru*, for Yesso:—Yamawo, Vice-Minister of Public Works, Sato, Chief Commissioner Mining Department, and Messrs. McRitchie and Simpkins; and 12 Japanese.
 Per Jap. str. *Saikio-Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. and Miss Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Strome, Mr. and Mrs. Obato, Mrs. O'ta, Mrs. Uisu, Mrs. Kawasaki, Mrs. Kurii, Mrs. Ishii, Colonel Shervinton, Mr. and Mrs. Minami, Dr. Adams, Dr. Plugge, Revd. H. Evington, Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida, Dr. Lamerson, Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida, Messrs. W. B. Walter, Tanimoto, Sakurai, O. H. Gulick, A. Gay, Okubo, J. H. Gubbins, Ysone, Morikami, Yoshiro, Fields, Groom, Utsumi, Yohara, Two Master Brookes, Morimura, Honjo, W. S. Cooper, Takase, Kawaoka Nakano, Fujiyama, T. Shioki, Fujikawa, Nomura, Kikuchi, Ishuin, Costler, Mostyn, Hughes, Shervinton, Utsunomiya, Inogaki, Fukawa, and Nagasaki.
 Per Frch. str. *Volga*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. Spooner, Schmidt, Hamilton, Houseal, Lary, and A. Ling.
 Per Brit. str. *Belgie*, for Hongkong:—Lieut. Coker, R. A., Pay Inspector Thornton, u.s.n., J. Jelowitz, C. Smith in cabin; 1 European, and 1 Chinese in steerage.

LOADING:—*Orissa*, for Hongkong and Europe, May 22nd.—P. & O. Co.
Tokio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, May 24th.—M. B. M. Co.
Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.
City of Peking, for San Francisco, June 2nd.—P. M. Co.
Takachiko Maru, for Hakodate, May 19th.—M. B. M. Co.
Oceanic, for San Francisco.—May 19th O. & O. Co.
Sumida Maru, for Kobe, May 20th; *Burmese*, for Kobe, Quick despatch.—L. Kniffler & Co.
Orestes, for London, Quick despatch.—Butterfield & Swire.
Ariatos, for San Francisco, Quick despatch.—E. B. Watson.
Obad Baxter, for New York, Quick despatch.—C. & G. Trading Co.
Madras, for Kobe, May 19th.—Findlay, Richardson & Co.
Ching Too, for Amoy, Quick despatch.—Chinese.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong P. & O. str. May 22nd; for Hongkong M. M. str. May 29th; for America P. M. str. June 2nd; O. & O. str. May 19th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki M. B. M. str. May 24th; for Hakodate M. B. M. str. May 19th.

CARGO:—Per Frch. str. *Volga* for Hongkong:—For France, 83 bales Silk; for London, 28 bales Silk; 47 bales Waste Silk; Treasure, for London, \$33,900.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Burmese	Luck	British steamer	1,268	London	May 10	L. Kniffer & Co.	Kobe
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Madras	Richardson	British Steamer	1,079	London	May 6	Frindly, Rich'd's'n & Co.	Kobe
Oceanic		British steamer	3,700	Hongkong	May 15	O. & O. Co.	San Francisco
Orestes	Robertson	British steamer	1,357	London	May 11	Butterfield & Swire	London
Orissa	Briscoe	British steamer	1,119	Hongkong	May 13	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Shario Maru	Mayes	Japanese steamer	800	Kobe	May 13	M. B. M. Co.	
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	May 5	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoe Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Japanese steamer	1,804	Hakodate	May 12	M. B. M. Co.	Hakodate
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	May 11	M. M. Co.	Hongkong
Tokio Maru	Swain	Japanese steamer	2,119	Sha'hai & p'rts	May 17	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports
SAILING SHIP.							
Aristos	Ericksen	Norw. barque	528	Nagasaki	May 6	E. B. Watson	San Francisco
Belle Morse	Hutchins	American ship	1,307	Nagasaki	May 7	P. M. Co.	
Ching Too	Baikie	British schooner	307	Takao	April 30	Chinese	Amoy
Coldingham	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Coulmakyle	Gordon	British ship	579	London	May 15	L. Kniffer & Co.	
Glengaber	Gray	British barque	658	Antwerp		L. Kniffer & Co.	
Globe	Harrison	British barque	776	Hongkong	May 11	To Order	
Johan Irgens	Mortensen	N'rwegian barque	775	N'wca'le n.s.w	April 15	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Johann Wickhorst	Heyenga	German barque	431	H'm'b'g v' A'K'be	Mar. 14	L. Kniffer & Co.	London.
John Potts	McPherson	British barque	373	Takao	April 7	Jardine Matheson & Co.	
Laira	Trevina	British barque	498	London	April 18	L. Kniffer & Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newc'tle n.s.w.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Marco Polo	Breckwoldt	German barque	358	Takao	May 11	L. Kniffer & Co.	
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Ambony	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	Now York
Oceanic	Affleck	British barque	320	Takao	April 18	Netherlands Trading Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Juno ...	8 ...	2,216 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel ...	4 ...	462 ...	Gun vessel ...	Captain Theobald.
BRITISH—Modeste ...	27 ...	1,913 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Mead.
BRITISH—Egeria ...	4 ...	1,011 ...	Sloop ...	Captain Douglas.
JAPANESE—Kongo ...	9 ...	1,800 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Webb, R. N.
RUSSIAN—Boyan ...	8 ...	2,000 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Vladnick ...	8 ...	1,069 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Novosilsky.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak ...	8 ...	1,100 ...	Corvette ...	Captain Tirtoff.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ... \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND ... \$1,000,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—WM. H. FORBES, Esq.

M. R. Bellios, Esq., H. L. Dalrymple, Esq., H. Hoppius, Esq., Hon. W.

Keswick, Adam Lind, Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., W. S. Young.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillips, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila, Singapore.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.

Reserved Funds £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " " " " " " "	6 " " " " " " " "	1	" "
" " " " " " " "	3 " " " " " " " "	2	" "
" " " " " " " "	1 " " " " " " " "	3	" "
" " " " " " " "	10 days " " " " " "	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " " " "	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " " " " " " " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hioo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE**
INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates.
No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " " 250 "
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NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 21.]

May 25, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

THE SILKWORMS' EGGS NOTIFICATION.

IN THE columns which we devote to translations from the native press will be found an article on the Notification freeing the trade in Silkworms' Eggs, which we published a fortnight ago. As we feared, the more active minority in the Silkworms' Eggs Business Association has succeeded in carrying its point against the majority who passed the Resolution fixing the production for this year at 1,300,000, so far as to have procured the publication of this Edict, which cancels a number of previous ones which tended to restrict the trade. According to the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō*, any kind of paper may now be used for the egg cards; traders are not compelled to join the Silkworm-egg guild, growers in one district where mulberry leaves are scarce, may import them from more favoured neighbourhoods; the quantities produced are no longer subjected to any governmentally-named limit; nor is any distinction made between eggs produced for home, and those produced for foreign purchasers; and, finally, the stamp tax on the cards is taken off. The trade, in fact, is left entirely to its own devices.

We ought, of course, as Free-Traders, to hail this edict of the government with acclaim; and this we should certainly do, if we had any confidence in the judgment and discretion of those engaged in it. The very first pages of this Review were devoted to a somewhat elaborate attempt to show the native silk-growers in what direction their profit was to be sought. We asked 'Why should Japan silk-growers allow Japanese silk to be grown in Italy?' and proved, to the satisfaction at least of foreign experts that Japanese should devote their efforts towards improving their own class of silk, which is of special and high quality,—by processes of careful selection and breeding of only their best worms, and by the use, where advisable and available, of foreign appliances and methods of reeling,—so as to educate, up to the highest point of perfection in colour, strength, and regularity the production which Nature has so bountifully bestowed upon them. We went on—with a disinterested disregard of foreign special interests, which ought to have won us the grateful applause of the whole native silk trade, to show how Japanese silk-growers held in their own hands the power to create for themselves, without Governmental assistance by either subsidy or protective edicts, a virtual monopoly for the very high class of silk which could be produced here,—by the charmingly simple process of producing only sufficient silk seed for their own wants, and declining to furnish France or Italy with the means of competing with Japan on what she ought to reserve for herself as her own special ground. We have to confess to a certain amount of disappointment that our arguments then appeared to attract but little attention in the native press: but perhaps a better result could hardly be expected,—the feeble pipings of the voice of the infant *Times* could not have been heard afar. We are encouraged,

however, to make another attempt to save the native silk-trade from loss, and again to point out the way to profit, by remarking that the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō*, the *Economist* of Japan, does make slight, though somewhat incorrect, reference to our advice, in the article under review. Our native contemporary says:

"It may be argued:—is it not better to prohibit the export of our silkworm eggs, so as not to let the same quality of raw silk as ours be manufactured in Europe? Indeed, this is often argued by foreign newspaper editors and is a very useful suggestion. But" (the *Chiugai* goes on to say) "although we have the same object in our mind also, this is a matter impracticable until after the treaties with Foreign Powers shall have been revised."

It is perhaps hardly worth while setting our contemporary right respecting the source of this idea. Our foreign readers will remember that—so far from any other of the "foreign newspaper editors" supporting us—our proposal was combated and ridiculed where we most looked for aid. But the writer in the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō* runs entirely off the line in the last clause of his sentence, showing that our article of January 5th had been carelessly read or not fully understood. We specially insisted on the point that the protective measures we urged on the trade could be taken by themselves, depended on themselves to take, and could not be prevented by foreign diplomatic action. "This is not Fiscal Protection," we wrote:—

"This is not Fiscal Protection. Nothing need be asked from their own native Government by the silk growers, nor feared from foreign Embassies. It is simply an act of legitimate self-protection by the trade; of availing itself of advantages which Nature has given to it, and which no one has a right to demand that it shall share with its rivals."

We cannot state this more clearly or more succinctly: and our contemporary is completely astray in imagining that either governmental action, or Treaty revision is necessary for establishing the virtual monopoly in particular classes of silk which we show Japanese silk-growers how to secure. On the contrary, any attempt by the French or Italian Minister to bring pressure to bear in Tōkiō, to compel the export of eggs, would be an infringement of the Treaty, would be Fiscal Protection (of the French and Italian trade) and would be opposed, of course, by the Minister of free-trading England.

So convinced are we of the soundness of our views; of the advantages which would accrue to our Japanese friends in the silk trade and, correlatively and ultimately, to the general foreign silk-trade also, by improving the quality and, especially, steadying the position of Japanese silk, that,—in the frequent references we have made in our leading columns and Editorial Notes, to the subject of Silkworms' Eggs and their exportation,—we have even gone so far as almost to beg for Governmental interference—a sacrifice of principle to expediency. But Govern-

mental interference then existed, to a considerable extent, and this slight increase of its pressure—wholly for the good of the trade—could be without much difficulty reconciled to our Plutonomic conscience. But now that Government has taken the bold step in the direction of Free Trade,—a step we hail with the greatest satisfaction,—of declaring the whole trade free, and giving up its revenue from the sale of cards and stamps; it would be hardly consistent in us to call for new forms of restriction. But we must, therefore, the more strongly urge upon the trade itself the policy of abstention, and we invoke the assistance of the native press, notably of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and of the journal which we quote to-day, in bringing our arguments to bear on those concerned. These newspapers can best do by translating our article of January 5th; for us, it only remains to repeat—that if Japanese silk-growers will but combine for a single season in the manner we suggest:—will grow eggs only for their own wants, and only those of the best qualities, freely supplying these to less favoured districts, but declining altogether to furnish them for export, or indeed to bring them to Yokohama at all—they will at once realize the value of our advice, by witnessing a rise in the price of Japan silks in stock at home, and a corresponding increase in values here for the whole of the new crop, which will far over-balance any possible profit they are likely to get from the sale of a moderate quantity of eggs—while they will be spared the disastrous loss which is also too likely to result from the recent Governmental action, which, while it frees the trade, unfortunately leads speculators into temptation and stimulates production in excess. Surely past experience ought to have its weight, too, with the trade. A few gambling middle men may have made, and lost, fortunes; but to the up-country grower and the native merchant here the whole operations of the past decade have shown a decided loss. Nor is this the only consideration which should induce the Japanese silk merchant proper to discourage the export trade in eggs. If Japanese silk were all the produce of worms from eggs carefully selected, laid by the strongest moths, and these parents judiciously chosen and crossed from the best breeds, the quality of Japanese silk would go on improving until it reached perfection: but now, with an export trade in eggs acting as a temptation to over-production of seed, no care is given to this all important question of selection, the object is only to fill cards, and all the eggs laid, good, indifferent, and bad, pass into the market. If France and Italy want many cards, and prices rise, the reserves of those retained for country use, which have had the advantage of some sort of selection by the only people who can know how they are likely to turn out,—the breeders—are drawn upon and their places filled by inferior seed. If the supply is greater than the demand, the excess is not always destroyed, but thrown back on the country and used for the production of silk. In either case the 'nerve' of the fibre suffers and the silk deteriorates, as we see, instead of improving. Of course, should France or Italy be starving for eggs, as has been the case before, Japan should not grudge, in charity, to spare from her overflowing store: but while the trade remains undisturbed by accident or catastrophe, for the Japanese silk-grower to throw away advantages which are his by Nature's law, and refuse to use means for his own protection and profit, which are clearly as legitimate as they would be found effective, is simple, almost suicidal folly, and deserves no other name.

THE LESSONS OF THE ASSASSINATION.

MORE lessons than one are to be learnt from the assassination of Okubo Toshimichi. In the first place, the fact that it was not prevented is discreditable to

the police. We have no reason to doubt the statement that the local authorities of Ishikawa Ken warned the Central Police office in the capital, that a band of dangerous young men had left for Tokio, apparently bent upon some deed of violence, and yet no attempt seems to have been made to trace or watch them. Foreigners in Yokohama have long had reason to know that for protection of their lives, persons and property, the Japanese police is worse than useless. Any application to them for assistance in emergency is only met with a shake of the head and a smile, indicating satisfaction at the applicant's being in trouble, and foreign ladies are insulted, and drunken sailors robbed and maltreated, while native policemen stand by, amused spectators. So numerous, too, so impudent are the burglaries, that it is impossible to avoid the conviction that the so-called 'guardian of the night' shares the plunder of the thieves. Under no other supposition can be accounted for, the robbery which occurred a few weeks ago, when the padlocked door of a warehouse was broken open, and thirty three cases of goods abstracted and removed in a perfectly leisurely manner. But such an enormous force of police is kept up, and so much money is spent upon it, that the life of a prominent native statesman might surely have been protected, and it is inexcusable that the band of men who killed Okubo should have been left unmolested to perpetrate their crime. It appears probable, too, that—had such been their pleasure,—they could, with equal ease, have escaped their punishment. They must have been for some days in Tôkiô; for they had to ascertain the locality of the Minister's house, and to make themselves sufficiently acquainted with his habits to enable them to plan their ambushade. The letter of warning sent to Okubo himself is a corroborative proof of this, and we are fully justified in reprehending, in the strongest terms, the supineness of the police, which allowed the plot to develop into consummation, undetected and unchecked.

Reform is evidently needed here. But the assassination teaches another lesson. Of the dead statesman's surviving colleagues, there are others who must know that they are equally obnoxious to the old conservative party, which disapproves equally of the admission of foreigners to Japan, and of the adoption of foreign customs, arts and sciences. These should avoid Okubo's faults of recklessness and disregard of danger, which appear to the foreign mind as remarkable as the inefficiency of the police, and actually reprehensible. We can make all due allowance for a creed of fatalism, and for a belief that the respect won by disdain of danger was worth the incurred risk. But to a man engaged, as Okubo was, in working out a new policy, obnoxious to many of his countrymen, though—as he knew it—certain to procure their ultimate good, it should have been seen to be a clear duty to guard a life that was so valuable to his country; and, to our thinking, this consideration should have outweighed all others. Nowhere is a prominent statesman secure from the attempts of political fanatics, or it may be of lunatics, to remove him by assassination, in the expectation that, with him, will die his policy or his system; but in most countries, a would-be murderer generally fails in his attempt, because it is hampered with the design and desire to escape after perpetration of the deed. Therefore, in European countries, but a small percentage of such attempts are successful. But, in Japan, a diametrically opposite sentiment appears to actuate political assassins, and consequently the *minimum* is found in the percentage of unsuccessful crimes. Men here who design to kill a statesman, seem to consider their work incomplete unless they can give full publicity to their reasons for their act; they weigh their own lives as nothing in the balance against this necessity, and would rather give themselves up to torture and death, than risk their motives remaining unknown. We can call to mind, at the moment, but one in-

stance in European history which parallels the Japanese practice. Felton, the murderer of Buckingham, in 1628, wrote a statement of his reasons for the deed he meditated, signed it, and placed it in his hat, and was apparently seeking some one to whom to give himself up, when he was arrested. But, in general, anxiety to escape has happily marred the full execution of the purpose; whereas, in Japan no such condition prevents the crime. And what makes Okubo's carelessness the more remarkable is, that he, and his colleagues or predecessors in office had always shown themselves fully alive to this special characteristic of the Japanese political assassin, when the lives of Foreign Ministers, or even of foreigners of less importance, were threatened. Most of us remember the annoyance to which we were subjected, but a few years ago, when any necessity took us to the capital, of being surrounded by an armed guard. But foreigners, merchants and Ministers, alike, recognized the necessity of the precaution. Only a very few years have elapsed, since a revolver was as universally worn as a waistcoat, and a Foreign Minister would have moved about in Yedo without his hat, as soon as without his guard. And as foreigners were regarded then, by the reckless *Samurai*, so the men who administer the Mikado's government are regarded now;—nay, with an even deeper detestation, as oppressing the class, by depriving them of their privileges, their rank, even their means of subsistence; as traitors to their clans and forsworn to oaths of fidelity to their chiefs. Of all this Okubo and his colleagues must be aware, and should not have disdained to guard themselves as carefully as their foreign visitors. Surely some precautions should be taken, beyond that proved inefficient one of travelling in a carriage, instead of in a *norimon*. They need be but simple. A couple of mounted police, armed with repeating rifles, and skilled in their use, would have made this murder, for instance, impossible. Had the Minister and his coachman, even, had revolvers lying by them, in all probability the attempt would have resulted in failure. It is true that, important as was Okubo's life,—'right arm of the government' as his Sovereign denominated him when lamenting his death to the *Chihokuwan Kuwaigi*, his death has not stopped the machine of the State; true that his policy survives him;—but how many more such shocks could it stand? It surely becomes an urgent public duty for the Cabinet Ministers, and their most prominent assistants in carrying out the new régime, to surround their persons,—whether in their houses, offices, or in the streets,—with such safeguards as will render any such calamities in the future, as nearly as may be, impossible.

We may also suggest that, besides making attempts at assassination more dangerous to the assailants, there is another deterrent to men who may be meditating similar crimes, of which the Government should avail itself. That the bodies of Saigo and his companions in arms should have been interred with respect, and worship permitted at their tombs, were proper displays of magnanimity by the victorious Government. These men were mistaken in their revolt, but they fought openly, and carried on their warfare with due observance of the rules of war. And they fell most gloriously, and deserved all the posthumous honour which their countrymen can bestow on consummate bravery. But the murderers of Okubo Toshimitchi belong to a different category: assassination is not a legitimate form of war; for six armed men to set suddenly upon one unarmed, and to kill him and, with him, an innocent servant, is not a brave, but a cowardly act, and as vulgar and cowardly assassins, these men should be punished. They deserve degradation from their rank and death at the hands of the common executioner; this they know and expect; but their hope of an honoured tomb in the future should be defeated by the destruction of their remains—as in

Europe—by quick-lime in a prison pit. No public parade or execution should give them the opportunity of posing as heroes before the populace of the capital, and the very whereabouts of their dishonoured graves should be concealed. Discontented *samurai* who are rejoicing over the downfall of Okubo, and meditating the destruction of Okuma, Ito and others, in similar fashion, should be let to know that not only will such attempts in future be fraught with as much danger to their own lives as may suffice to defeat their purposes, but that—should they succeed, degradation of their names and oblivion of their graves will as certainly form part of their punishment, as that extinction of their lives of which they reckon so little. It is of no avail to tell such men, because their convictions are fixed to the contrary, but it is as certain as sunrise after night, that their memories will hereafter be execrated by succeeding generations of their countrymen, as those of mischievous fools who sought to put back the clock of Time by destroying a useful life: and no false sentiment, no respect for old customs, should be allowed now to intervene which might check the growth of so wholesome an estimate of their character and their deed.

A daily contemporary, in a very able article upon the assassination, appears inclined to attribute it—as well as the various rebellions which have embarrassed the Government of the Restoration, with other political murders, and attempts at murder,—to an uniformly repressive policy which has gagged the press and denied to the people representative government. We can go but a little way with the *Japan Herald* in this direction. We fully agree with it, in recognizing the connection of cause and effect between the existing despotism and rebellion and murder. But we cannot accept the deduction that, therefore, an unfettered press and free representative government would be benefits to the country. To our minds, they would land it in anarchy in a month. This people has, for ages, been so accustomed to be governed, and governed in the minutest acts of life, that it is totally unfit to govern itself. It is a truism to us Europeans that a free press and free parliamentary institutions are safety valves for discontent, which prevent explosions such as these we have to deplore in Japan. But the very existence of safety-valves presupposes an intelligently and skilfully constructed machine. Constitutionalism is the growth of centuries, and without the restraining powers of public opinion and conservative checks which grow up, side by side, during the ages, with freedom of thought and speech, these forces are capable of bringing upon a nation calamities worse than anything that personal despotism inflicts. Modern French history gives the 'philosophical speculator' many a proof of this truth, from the Reign of Terror to the burning of Paris: we have a sufficient example in the recent passage of the American Silver Bill over the President's veto to show us how free parliamentary institutions can impair a country's credit, while we need not go farther than Tòkiô to see how a free press often stains her citizens with disgrace. Nothing in the history of Japan for the last ten years has given any ground for belief that the present generation, as a generation, and excepting isolated individuals—are fitting themselves, while laying down their murderous swords, for the use of such double-edged weapons as a free press and free parliament. The press did not enjoy six weeks of 'freedom' before it began to advocate political assassination; and among the first measures brought forward in a 'free parliament' would certainly be the expulsion of foreigners and probably the abolition of monarchy. It appears to us, on the other hand, that the present Ministry have been seeking to give, to both press and people, fully as much license as will be good for them for many years to come. The deliberations of the *Chihokuwan Kuwaigi* have been to the full as free as were those of our own House of Commons

under Elizabeth, and in the next number of our Review will be published the Municipalities Bill, mainly Okubo's work, which lays the foundation of representative Government. While, in another page, an article translated from a leading native newspaper, inciting the subjects of a friendly Power to revolt, evidences surely a sufficiently lax censorship of the Press. No—the Government of Japan must long continue a despotism; it should be the care of those who have to administer it, so to guard their persons that it shall not be 'tempered with assassination'; and the people should be taught that abstention from such crimes is needful to prove their fitness to be trusted with other means of removing an obnoxious Minister from the councils of his sovereign, and should be told, too, that every such act postpones the day when these longed-for powers can be placed in their hands. Citizens of a free country ourselves, and enjoying the blessings of that freest form of Government—Constitutional Monarchy—(for the tyranny of a mob is worse than the tyranny of a Tzar), we shall hail with pleasure each judiciously progressive step towards this true freedom in Japan. But the youth of these assassins is a most discouraging symptom—most of them must have been mere boys when the Restoration took place ten years ago—and it would appear that even this rising generation will not be fit to be trusted with more than a shadow of representative government. It may be that we are wrong: it may be that these youths are not fair samples of the mass. We are willing to hope so, but we doubt. Meanwhile, it rests with the rulers who have to educate and the children who have to learn, to determine whether the gift of constitutional freedom can safely be trusted in the hands of the Japanese of the nineteenth century: whether it must not be reserved for a generation yet unborn.

A VERY sufficient reply to one of the charges that was often, before his assassination, brought against Okubo, and alleged by his murderers as one of their reasons, or excuses, for their crime—that he aggrandized his own estate at the expense of the public purse—is the fact now ascertained beyond a doubt, that he has died a very poor man. After paying his small household debts, the balance remaining of his 'fortune' is one hundred and forty *yen*; about £28 sterling! The congratulatory presents of the Emperor and Empresses, on the occasion of his being posthumously invested with the title of *Udajin*, amounting to seven thousand *yen*, is all, therefore, that his family have left to live on. As we have seen, during his life he refused more than one pension, and on his Imperial Master insisting on his acceptance of one, he handed it over to the Board for encouraging Native Industries, an object he always had peculiarly at heart. We now learn that, a week before his death, he had mortgaged his house, and, adding to the sum realized all that he could scrape together, made up a sum of eight thousand *yen*, which he remitted to Kagoshima, to be laid out in rebuilding houses, and in other ways relieving the distress of the inhabitants who had suffered during the war, a body of people, of course, bitterly opposed to him and his policy. The return of this remittance has been telegraphed for, to be used in defraying the expenses of his funeral, there appearing to exist a strong prejudice in Japan, which prevents a man's relatives accepting aid from public or private funds for such a purpose. But the same amount has been subscribed and remitted to Kagoshima in his name, to replace his actual own cash returned, and to ensure that one of his last generous wishes should be carried out.

Okubo, like most great statesmen, seems to have been quite indifferent to money, and careless of his own fortunes. He dedicated his life and what monetary rewards his labours incidentally brought him, wholly to his country's service; justly depending on his country's gratitude for necessary

support in his declining years, should he live to retire from active life—leaving his family as a legacy to his country, should he be cut off in his prime. The murderous hand of blinded Faction has shortened his useful life; his bequest must be generously administered to: and the first graceful acknowledgment of his services already made by the Crown is an earnest that this will be done.

WE fully believe the information we receive that His Majesty is overwhelmed with deep personal grief at the loss of his faithful servant. We hear that, since the event, he has remained shut up in his private apartments, and finds himself unequal to transact any business. Loneliness is one of the penalties which sadden the lives of those who sit on the splendid heights of thrones: to be deprived, one by one, by death, in violent fashion, of the statesmen and warriors who have elevated him to a far higher position than that occupied by almost any of his long, illustrious line, must greatly embitter the lot of the young Emperor of Japan, and sadly dim the lustre, while it adds to the weight, of the diadem which rests upon his brows. Two dignified public expressions of his sense of loss, he has taken opportunity to make—one, in his Message to the bereaved family, accompanying the patent addressed, in Japanese fashion, to the dead statesman conferring on him enhanced rank; the other, at the audience to which His Majesty summoned the members of the *Chiho Kuwan Kuwaigi*. We trust that the words used by him on this occasion will be carried by the Governors, into every province of the kingdom, and there bear their fruit; and that the people under their jurisdiction may indeed be "so instructed, that we shall have no more of such misguided men as those who slew Okubo Toshimitchi, indeed the right hand of the Emperor."

ONE of the assassins, we hear, ascertained, by enquiry at his house early in the morning of the murder, whither the Minister was going that day, at what hour he would set out, and what was the route his carriage usually took. Considering that, two days previously, Okubo had been warned by an anonymous letter that his life was in danger—a fact which must surely have been known to his household; for he appears to have made no secret of his receipt of the letter—and to have treated it lightly,—as a weak 'invention of the enemy'—it is not a little remarkable that these enquiries should not have excited the suspicion of his servants. But in every case of a successful political murder in this country, Chance seems to favour the criminals in the same unaccountable way. Precautions, obvious after the event, are not taken, warnings are unheeded and evil seems to be allowed to have its way in a fashion which greatly tends to shake one's faith in the doctrine that any omniscient intellect watches over the affairs of our little world.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SOME changes in Governmental arrangements have been necessitated by the removal of Okubo. Ito Hirobumi, as we stated last week, has been appointed Minister of the Interior, retaining also the Presidency of the *Gen-rō-in* and also that of the Legislative Department of the *Daijokuwan*. We now hear that General Saigo, recently appointed Ambassador to Italy, will not leave for Rome immediately, it being thought best to postpone his departure for a while, and to keep him here to strengthen the Government. Enoyue, formerly Vice-Minister of Finance, and now in London, was telegraphed for on the day after the murder, and requested to return to Japan as soon as possible.

WHEN reviewing as fully as they required, or deserved, the estimates put forth by H. E. Okuma Shigenobu, the Finance Minister, last January, of the year from July 31st 1877, to June 30th 1878, we had to treat them, in common with all our foreign contemporaries, as practically

valueless, because they were only estimates—as were also the figures for the parallel period for 1876-7, reprinted from his previous annual statement. Whereas, had the actual *expenditure and income* of the previous period been given, his estimates for the current year would have been of value. But, we urged in extenuation, even these estimates might perhaps include the actual facts for the period July to December 1877, and showed how—if this was the case, a certain amount of weight was due to the document.

Now,—we are pleased to hear, His Excellency is having prepared for publication, in July or August, the accounts of actual expenditure and income for 1877-78. We shall be extremely glad to see his accounts and, whether they accord with his estimates or not, their publication cannot but strengthen, because it will certify, the financial position of the country. It is only with these solid figures and facts before him, that a Chancellor of the Exchequer can plan, or his financial counsellors advise upon, the Ways and Means of a nation. In England, by our own Quarterly Returns of Trade, and Treasury and Board of Trade Reports for the same period, which are regularly published in the *Economist*, all interested in British Trade and Finance are not only kept informed of the progress of the nation, but can intelligently and with approximate accuracy, foretell the course of trade during the next following period, due regard being had to prospects of crops, and political events and contingencies. We strongly advise the Japanese Minister of Finance to imitate as closely as possible the procedure and method of keeping accounts practised by the acknowledged leader of the commercial nations of the world.

A VERY sensible, short, article is quoted in our translation columns to-day, from the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō*, urging the people of Japan to patronize their own manufactures which are now produced, in great variety and quantity, in imitation of foreign makes. We might go farther than the writer, and urge upon his countrymen, that they should patronize their native manufactures even though they may be slightly inferior in finish and appearance—for we quite endorse what he says of the intrinsic honesty of quality of most of them—to foreign imported goods. There are exceptions, of course; notably in lucifer matches, which he unfortunately picks out as 'greatly improved in quality, and not inferior for practical use.' This is very far from being the case, and as—in fact—half-a-dozen of them have to be struck in the attempt to get a light, against one of Bryant and May's make, the fact that the Japanese matches cost only one-third of the price of the English still leaves them, in effect, twice as dear. But that many Japanese imitations of foreign goods, specially in clothing, are both better and cheaper, and will wear longer, than their prototypes, is evidenced by the fact that they are largely used by foreigners whose means do not allow them to be particular about fashion or finish, and there are shops in the native town which quite seriously compete with the foreign 'stores' in such articles as underclothing and hosiery. We are quite with the writer in his recommendation to his countrymen to encourage native industries; and the Court and aristocracy should set the fashion of using them, as our own Queen has worn Irish poplins, Limerick lace, &c., to encourage the industries of Great Britain. The problem has yet to be solved whether Japan is to take rank among the manufacturing countries of the world, or may, more profitably confine her attention to the production of raw material. This is purely a question of the most profitable employment of labour. She has cheap coal, but most of her machinery has to be imported, and this is of course, against her: but a fair field, and even a little favour, ought to be given by those who set the fashions here, to articles of native make.

DE mortuis nil nisi bonum is a time-worn and much abused, though kindly proverb, and we cannot be severe upon the defunct *Choya Shimbun* for its publication of the article 'England's distress India's opportunity', which we had in type some days before the suppression of that journal. We publish it, and refer to it here, merely as a somewhat typical sample of the way in which the native press writes of foreign affairs. During the Satsuma rebellion, much was written by foreign journalists which had better never appeared, but we do not recollect any such distinct suggestion as this, that a part of the Empire

should rise against the Government during its struggle for existence. Foreign journalists, self-constituted apologists for all that the Japanese,—government, press, or people,—can say, write, or do—who excuse assassination of foreigners and advocate restriction of foreign trade; might usefully devote some few drops from the vials of their wrath to the canterization of such pernicious articles as these, which too often disfigure the columns of the native press, and tend to retard its release from the censorship of which it so loudly complains.

WE HAVE neither space nor time at our disposal to write a rejoinder, to-day, with the minuteness and care which the subject deserves, to Dr. Mayet's reply to our second article reviewing his very interesting paper on compulsory Fire Insurance in Japan. We will merely now express our willingness to qualify the epithet 'fatal' which we attached to our second objection to his scheme,—that by Government taking all the house insurance, and leaving contents of warehouses, &c., uninsured, it discouraged private enterprise in the same direction. The objection is a strong one, but—as he points out, not logically 'fatal,' and we withdraw the expression.

But we cannot own, we confess, that any conviction of error on other points of our view has as yet been borne in on our mind by Dr. Mayet's letter. We shall not drop the subject, and shall be glad to see the second paper promised us. Meanwhile, as his proposition stands, it appears an excuse for an impecunious Government to levy an unequal tax on house property, and smacks, too, of Governmental interference with private enterprise. We are not as sure as Dr. Mayet appears to be, that the idea of insurance—particularly as applied to shipping—is totally unfamiliar to the Japanese mind, and we are inclined to think that the main reason which has hitherto checked the establishment of Fire Insurance Companies, has been the style of building in towns. Fifteen per cent is really too much to contemplate as premium, and yet, in the capital, seven years is always held to be a fairly average life for a house. We should not be surprised to hear, either, that some provision for rebuilding houses in country districts is already existent. But we can only thus briefly acknowledge our correspondent's letter to-day and must postpone fuller discussion of it to a future occasion.

WE invite special attention to Dr. Wagener's most remarkable paper on Chinese and Japanese weights and Measures, which we translate from the Transactions of the German Asiatic Society, and publish below. Not only is the connection between Chinese and Japanese weights and measures clearly shown, and their origin satisfactorily traced, but a connection is established between Chinese weights and measures and the musical scale which will, we imagine, interest and astonish most of our readers as it has ourselves. Mathematicians know how theoretical music and pure mathematics are allied, and that a deaf and dumb student can construct a perfectly correct score. And also that Pythagoras was the discoverer, or inventor, of the musical scale. But this account of a Chinese sage, nearly five thousand years ago, constructing a harmonized system of music, weights and measures, all evolved from a keynote out of a bamboo pitch-pipe, shakes our faith in the great Samian's originality of conception, or throws conjecture back on coincidence, as the only defence of his mathematical reputation.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

(Specially translated for the 'Japan Times'.)

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN CHINA AND JAPAN.

From information supplied by Mr. NINAGAWA NORITANE.

By Dr. G. WAGENER.

A COMPARISON of the expressions used in different languages for lineal measurement shows, in a manner that admits of no doubt, that their origin was almost everywhere the same. At a time when the wants of mankind did not extend beyond such things as every family could procure by its own labour, approximate dimensions were quite sufficient for ordinary intercourse, and nothing was more natural than that people should use for that purpose what

was always at hand; viz: their own limbs. The German words "Fuss, Elle, Spanne" (foot, ell, span); the French "pied, ponce," the Italian "braccio" etc., are complete proofs that the origin of these measurements is peculiar to no one country. Japan is no exception to this, for the system used in the beginning of historical times, that is, about 2,500 years since, arose in the same way. The unit of measurements for ordinary small objects was the "Yada," or a small span,—the distance between the top of the thumb and that of the middle finger, when they were spread out to the greatest possible distance. The next smallest unit was the "Nigiri," a word which is still used to denote the left fist when it holds the bow. A subdivision of the fist was most naturally the thickness of the finger (*hon*, also, according to the number which was prefixed, called *pon* or *bon*) and next to the "fist," came four "fingers." Greater lengths were expressed with the help of the "Hiro," that is the space between the finger tops when the two arms are spread out. This corresponds to the German "Klafter," (fathom) and to the French "brasse," and it was used precisely like the two latter, in expressing the lengths of ropes and the depth of the sea. The foot, in Japanese, "*Ashi*," which can be rendered either by pace or by foot, was the unit of measurement for horizontal distances on the ground; and also for roads and land. It cannot be gathered from the usages of the language whether the foot was also used as a linear unit; but the word *Shaku* (尺) which has come from the Chinese, and which we call a foot, means generally only a measure of length, or an instrument for measuring lengths.

Like the linear measure, the measure of quantity (dry measure) was, in the beginning, very primitive. The measure for grain was the "*Sassuye*," and corresponded to "both hands full." The first, during the reign of Emperor Suinin (in the first century before Christ) to introduce a real vessel for measuring grain, were the Shintô priests of the *Miya*. This vessel consisted of a wooden bowl, of the size and shape of the two hollow hands held together, and was first used with the object of measuring out their pay to the workmen employed in the temple, in the shape of rice rations, and probably also for the purpose of laying somewhat more certain foundations for estimating the revenues of the temple. To this day wooden bowls of a similar form are used in the *Miya* at certain festivals, to convey rice to the altar.

This very imperfect system seems to have been in use for centuries, and was not improved until Japan came into closer contact with neighbouring countries. This occurred in the third century after the birth of Christ, under the celebrated Empress Jingū. Her predecessors having subdued Japan by long wars, and divided it into provinces and districts, and having completely established their rule, this energetic Empress undertook a campaign against the Koreans, defeated them in several battles, and laid on them a tribute which was paid for a long time afterwards. By means of the Koreans, the Japanese now received a more exact knowledge of China and of Chinese learning under Ojin Tennō, the successor of the Empress Jingū, who reigned from 270 to 313 after Christ. The Korean scholar Wani brought the philosophical writings of Confucius to Japan. At this time also a linear measure, the Korean foot *Horai Shaku* or *Koma Shaku*, was introduced. What we now call Korea consisted of three provinces; Koma or Horai; and Shinra and Hakusai, united under one ruler, and these three were known as Sankan or the three Kingdoms. The length of this foot was 1.173 (1 *Shaku*, 1 *Sun*, 7 *bu*, 3 *rin*) of the present Japanese foot; for square measure a length of five feet 'Jip-po' (*bō*, a pole, similar to our perch).

Chiefly through the agency of the Koreans, in the course of the following century, the Chinese characters; different industries; improvements in the building of houses; the Buddhist religion &c., were introduced into Japan. With the object of coming into more direct relations with China, the Empress Suiko (593-629) sent an Ambassador Extraordinary thither, and during her reign the more complete Chinese system of weights and measures was adopted.

Following the example of China, two systems called the *Dai* and *Shō*, or "greater" and "less" measurements, were used, side by side, according to the nature of the object to be measured. But as it was not easy to abolish at once the Korean foot, which had been used up to the present, and which was two inches larger than the Chinese *Daishaku* or great foot; it was made the Japanese *Daishaku*

(1.173 of the present ordinary *Kanashaku*), and the Chinese "great foot" became the Japanese "small foot" or *Shō-shaku* (.968 of the present *Kanashaku* or *Kanashaku*); * the latter is also called *Mempio-shaku* after the period (628) in which it was introduced. It follows from these numbers that the latter differs by only about two lines from the *Kanashaku* or ordinary foot; and it appears that this error gradually arose in consequence of the incompleteness of the mechanism for dividing the scales; for up to a short time since, people thought that the ancient foot and the present one were the same, especially as it was quite certain that no change had occurred in linear measurements since the 8th century. It was first discovered twenty years ago that such a difference existed, by comparison with four old measuring scales which were preserved in Nara.

The great, that is the old Korean foot, was used chiefly like the German ell, in measuring clothing, and is therefore called also *Gofuku-shaku*; for this purpose now however the *Kujira-shaku* is used, which was introduced two hundred years ago, and which is about five lines longer. (*Kujira*—fishbone, from which the ell is frequently made).

Dry measure has undergone more changes than linear measure, partly because it plays a not unimportant part in finance, as all the taxes had to be paid to the government in kind.

At the same time as the linear measurement, the Korean measure of quantity, the *Shō*, which is about half of the present *shō*, was introduced. It is at present generally used in Yamato, where, in the town of Nara, a standard measure has been preserved since ancient times. At the time of the transition from the Korean to the Chinese system, the *Shō* was naturally taken as the unit of dry measure and as it was almost a third smaller than the *Shō* hitherto used, it received the name *Gen-tai-shō* or the diminished *Daishō*, from *Genjiru*, to decrease or diminish. This reform could progress but slowly, and it can easily be understood that it occasioned much difficulty, as a change in measures of quantity must, at that time, have interfered to a much greater extent with all the customs of trade and intercourse, than a change in linear measurement. Hence the Government thought, about a hundred years later, in the time of Monmu Tennō (697-708) that it would be forced to return to the old Korean *Shō*. Meanwhile, however, the people, here and there, had commenced to accustom themselves to the new measure, and had made the necessary vessels. It happened also that both were used, for a period which must have been some centuries. About the year 1,000 in the period Chōhō, another reform was made, by which both measures were relinquished, and a new *Shō*, which was double the Chinese or *Gen-tai-shō*, was introduced. A vessel containing this measure, called the *chōhō-masu*† is still preserved in the Ministry of the Interior, and another at Nara. Moreover it has still maintained itself in some districts, especially in the neighbourhood of Kiōtō, in Yamashiro and Goshū, where it is still used.

Subsequently, this measure was also changed. There are still five *shō* measures existing in Japan belonging to the latter half of the fifteenth and first half of the sixteenth century, which all resemble each other, but are twenty per cent greater than that used up to that time. This was the time of long civil wars, and the increase in size of the dry measure is explained by the financial embarrassments of the government. In similar circumstances European Princes had recourse to the notorious expediency of debasing the coinage. This was not possible in Japan, because coined money, at least gold and silver coins, were in very small quantities, and besides, it would have been of little avail, as the taxes were paid to the government in certain quantities of rice. Simply to raise the taxes and instead of five *koku* to demand six, seemed a doubtful expedient, on account of the dissatisfaction which such a measure must necessarily excite among the farmers. It was therefore concluded to attain the same object; namely the increase of the revenues of the State, by an ordinance which seemed less heavy, and by a course which was to a certain extent concealed. This precedent was followed subsequently by Taikō-Sama, who also carried

* This is so called because it is chiefly used by Carpenters and the rule is generally made in the form of a right angle. The character for *Kōe* (角) is the same as that for *maguru*, bent, not straight.

† The word *masu* is used in Japanese for every vessel used as a measure of quantity. People say *itto-masu*; *isho-naru* &c. according as the vessel holds a to, a *shō* &c.

on many wars, and raised by eight per cent, the measure which was already increased. While the first contained $5' \times 5' \times 2' 5''$, he deepened it by two lines so that it contained $5' \times 5' \times 2' 7''$. But it could not now be otherwise than that the people would be much displeased with this arbitrary act, and that the government would be much discredited thereby. In order, therefore, to recover its good character, and also as peace was now assured, one of the Shôguns of the Tokugawa family thought it desirable to diminish the measure, which was accordingly done by a government order from Kiôtô, in 1623. The new measure was therefore called the *kiô-masu*, and the dimensions of this *sho* are $4' 9'' \times 4' 9'' \times 2' 7''$. This is the measure used at the present day, and by the last ordinances of the government it has become necessary to employ it all over the country.

Japanese weights do not exhibit much peculiarity and are essentially imitated from the Chinese. The unit is the *momme* (in Chinese *lian* or in mercantile language *mace*) which was introduced about 700 years after Christ; nevertheless the real Japanese pound or *kin* has 180, not 160 *momme*; besides, there was also the old Chinese division of the *kin* into 16 *riyo*; 1 *riyo* = 4 *bun* or *bu*, 1 *bu* = 4 *shu*. These weights are still used for medicines. Both these *kin* of 160 and 180 *momme* respectively, are called *dai-ikkin* or "large pound" according to the practice mentioned in the case of dry measure. They are distinguished from each other by the words *tô-me*, Chinese division, and *nihon-me* Japanese division, and when an article is being purchased by the pound, the vendor will sometimes inquire whether *tô-me* or *nihon-me* is meant. In addition to this, there is still the so called *yama-me*, for articles which come from the interior, and have to be transported a long distance to markets, such as tea, fragrant substances &c. This *kin* differs greatly, according to the distance of the place of production from the place of sale, and reaches as far as 210, 230 and even 250 *momme*.^{*} This uncertainty in the size of the pound also explains why in wholesale trade nothing is calculated in pounds; almost without exception the price of an article is given at so much per thousand *momme* (*ik-kwamme*) or per ten thousand *momme* (*jikkwamme*.)

Thus we have brought the history of Japanese weights and measures up to the present time; but it must not be supposed that the same measures are in use throughout the country. In different provinces the former Princes continued the old system or altered them, especially the dry measures, at their own pleasure. The present government therefore, considered it necessary, in August 1875, to issue a new standard ordinance which aimed at bringing the systems of weights and measures throughout the country into complete harmony. They established a standard office in every province, in which officials appointed by the central Government, tested and stamped all scales and measures. The weights and measures are those used in Tokio; but unfortunately the decree gives no official comparison of these with the weights and measures of foreign countries. Every standard office receives, at least, two sets of the requisite standard weights and measures, one for the office itself, and the other for the maker of the new ones. According to the requirements of the place, one shopkeeper or more in every town is authorized to sell them, and these privileged houses must exhibit a special signboard. As soon as the new measures required for a province are tested and stamped, they must be shown to the Government, who will then fix the term at which the sale is to begin. Within three hundred days after this date, all the old measures must be tested and stamped by the standard office, or changed for new ones; for breach of this regulation the measures will be confiscated and the owner punished.[†]

The testing of the weights and measures is done in a very simple manner. Measuring scales are tested with a pair of compasses; dry measures, which are all in the form of a box with a square bottom, and are almost wholly composed of wood, are measured by their length, breadth and thickness. This was formerly done by means of dried

millet seed; the normal measure, and that which was to be tested were filled by means of a funnel-shaped contrivance; the contents flattened, interchanged and weighed in a pair of scales. In dry measures, which are in the form of a rectangular box, it is noticeable that a flat piece of iron is placed diagonally across the top, the upper surface of which lies in the same plane as the four upper corners of the measure. This contrivance renders it easy on the one hand to grasp the measure, and on the other to flatten down the contents. In calculating the contents, the volume of this piece of iron is deducted, and hence it is that in the above mentioned official notification, its dimensions are exactly given.

At the end of this paper there is a short table for reducing Japanese weights and measures.

We now come to the system of Chinese weights and measures, which is very interesting. There is not the slightest doubt that it is more than 4,600 years old; and it is a highly remarkable circumstance that, quite irrespective of the fact that it is more scientific and exact, it possesses all the advantages for which the French metrical system is so much praised. In the first place, it starts from a basis supplied by nature, which at any rate is very different from the Meridian of the earth, which is the basis of the metrical system; secondly the decimal arrangement is almost consistently employed throughout; thirdly, linear and dry measure proceed directly from the same unit as the measure of weight, and, lastly, what the metrical system does not do, it regulates in the simplest manner the relations of musical notes, which latter form the starting point for the whole system of weights and measures. The following account of the origin of this system contains fact and fancy mingled, but it is easy to distinguish between^{*} them. In the reign of the Emperor Hoang-ti, called by the Japanese Kotei, who governed China in the twenty-seventh century before Christ, the scholar Lyng-lun (Kerin in Japanese) was commissioned to complete the musical system which had been discovered 250 years earlier, and particularly to lay down fixed rules for the making of the instruments. Naturally he had to commence with the bamboo, which had already been long used, to give the note for the other instruments; and he therefore betook himself to the province of Si-jung in the Northwest of China, where, on the Northern slope of a range of high mountains a species of bamboo grew, which, on account of its uniformity and its structure, which was neither too hard nor too soft, was exceedingly suitable for a wind instrument. He cut one off and tried it. Tradition says that it gave the same note as his own voice, when he was excited by no emotion; but the rippling of the sources of the Hoangho which were in the vicinity followed in the same tone. At the same time the fabulous bird Fung-Hiang (Hôwô in Japanese) flew to the place, accompanied by his mate. Both perched themselves on a neighbouring branch, and commenced a song, in the course of which each of the two birds gave six separate notes. These are the notes which are called the six male and six female tones, in the scale discovered by Lyng-lun, and which correspond to the ancient teaching of the male and female principles in nature. As a matter of course, the deepest of the male notes was the one the philosopher himself had already discovered. He now endeavoured to reproduce the other notes with the help of bamboo pipes, and succeeded. His task was now to lay down fixed rules as to the length of the pipes, so that thenceforth they could be easily constructed everywhere. For this reason, and because such a scale of notes depends upon slight differences of length, and there was

^{*} The information communicated to me by Mr. Ninagawa relative to the origin of the Chinese system of weights and measures coincides exactly with that contained in Vol. VI. p. 95 of the "Mémoires concernant les Chinois, par les Missionnaires de Péking, Paris 1780." Although it is by no means new, it seems to me sufficiently interesting to find a place here.

It seems moreover, that several scholars took part in this work. At page CXXX of the introduction to the work, we read, "Par ses ordres (of the Emperor Hoang-ti) Youshing fit une sphère et régla le calendrier et les saisons. Li-shen inventa la manière de compter; alors les poids et les balances furent réglés. Ling-lun fit la musique. Ling-lun prit un roseau dans une vallée, appelé *Huik-ki*, y fit des trous et souffla dedans, afin d'imiter les tons de la cloche. Il distingua les différents tons de la musique; six étaient appelés *Lü* et six *Lü*; avec ces tons il imitait le chant du Fong-hoang.

Le Ministre Yong-yuen fit 12 cloches, conformément aux 12 lunes; alors les 5 tons furent d'accord, les saisons furent déterminées."

^{*} Quite the same has been the case in Europe.

Zeller in his history of the people of Appenzell says, that from the 13th to the 15th century the measure of wine and fruit became smaller according to the distance or cost of transport from the place of growth to the place of destination, although the price remained the same. The diminishing of the quantity was in proportion to the cost of freight. He remarks here that this contrivance was very convenient for people who could not calculate.

S. L. Schmidt. Coins, Weights, Measures. Stuttgart. p. 5.

[†] Similar standard scales, weights, &c. can be bought now in Tokio.

scarcely at this time instruments to divide great lengths, he necessarily arrived at the notion of passing from the less to the greater, and of laying down an adequately small natural unit for his measurements or rules. But that could be nothing else than a grain of seed; and now the point was to get seeds of the greatest possible uniformity. He chose a sort of millet, called in Chinese *Shu* and in Japanese *Kuro-kibi* or black Sorgho (the botanical name of which is *Sorghum rubrum*) the seed of which is of a dark brown colour, and which is said to possess the advantage of greater hardness and uniformity than that of the grey and other kinds. The seed is pointed at the end, and from one point to the other the length is somewhat greater than in a direction at right angles to this. Lyng-lun now fixed the length of the pipe which gave the keynote at eighty-one grains of seed placed lengthwise in a row. But when the grains are placed breadthwise, exactly a hundred are required to give the same length.* Thus the double division of 9×9 and 10×10 was quite naturally arrived at. According to the dimension in question, it was called a musical or an ordinary foot, which latter was introduced with the decimal subdivision as a measure of length. The breadth of the grain of seed was equal to 1 *fen* (a line); 10 *fen*=1 *tsun* (inch); 10 *tsun*=1 *tshe* (foot); 10 *tshe*=1 *tschang*; 10 *tschang*=1 *ny*. Subsequently, the line was divided into tenths, hundredths, &c. up to ten millionths. Lyng-lun also laid down rules for the breadth, as well as for the length of the pipe; because, although the note is essentially dependent on the length, it is nevertheless necessary for its purity, that the pipe should be neither too broad nor too narrow. He therefore fixed the circumference inside at 9 grains arranged lengthwise.† With these dimensions, namely, a length of eighty-one grains, and an internal circumference of nine; the pipe which gives the keynote contains just 1,200 grains, and this volume was accordingly made the unit of dry measure. It is called *yo*; 2 *yo*=1 *ko*; 10 *ko*=1 *tscheng*; 10 *tscheng*=1 *ten*; 10 *ten*=1 *hu*.

Thus dry measure was obtained. But the twelve notes of the scale are all derived from the keynote, and are to a certain extent all comprehended in it. Hence, if the 1,200 grains contained in the scale, are divided among the twelve notes, it gives each 100, and the weight of these hundred grains was made by Lyng-lun the unit of weight. It was called a *tschu*; this again was naturally divided according to the decimal scale into 10 *lei*, and every *lei* again into 10 *tschu*, each of the latter representing the weight of one grain and taking the same name. We know that a similar unit of weight is used by many nations, especially by Asiatics, and also that it was used by the Greeks and Romans. Of course, we can regard the train of thought of the discoverer, as having proceeded in the opposite direction, namely that he started from the weight of a single grain of millet, and then took this tenfold and a hundred fold, and then gave to every note this number of a hundred grains. It is most probable, however, that some experiments as to the contents of his key-pipe led him to see that it contained 1,200 grains, and thence to the notion of deducing more exact numbers in the manner above stated.‡

* This is really the case, at least sufficiently accurately to lead to the number 100. It is not however meant to say that the Chinese, without this coincidence, would not have arrived at the decimal division, for already in Lyng-lun's time the number 10 played an important part in, and was the foundation of the system of reckoning.

† This at least is the dimension usually given by Chinese writers.

‡ In the "Memoires concernant les Chinois. Paris 1781. Part VI. p. 9, it is said that some writers are of opinion that already in the time of Hoang-ly some person (i. e. Rin or Lyng-lun) found the contents of the first pipe to be exactly 982.09275 cubic *pin*. But this seems hardly possible, if one examines this number more closely. Manifestly it is the contents of a reed 100 *pin* long, and one ninth of this in the circumference of the inside. In this case the exact calculation of the contents would give 982.438, which is very near the Chinese number. At the same time, it follows from the above estimate that the Chinese, in case the above supposition relative to the circumference of the inside is correct, took the proportion between the circumference of a circle and its diameter to be 3.1427. This coincides, however, so closely with the real proportion, 3.1415926, that we can hardly believe that it was known to the Chinese in Hoang-ly's time, that is in the 28th century before the Christian era.

The writer of this paper has not yet been able to ascertain in what manner the old Chinese expressed the relation between the circumference or area of a circle and its diameter. It is highly probable that above calculation is of comparatively modern origin. [See note at the end of this paper.]

From a hundred grains the weight multiplies, but not according to the decimal system; 6 *tschu* make 1 *tsu*; 4 *tsu* make 1 *leang*, and 16 *leang* make 1 *kin* or pound; so that a *leang* would correspond to our ounce.

This *leang* has also become the unit of the coinage, but at a much later period; and what in mercantile parlance is called a *tael*, is nothing else than an ounce or *leang* of silver. The subdivisions of the unit of value, and consequently of the unit of weight, were simultaneously fixed according to the decimal system, so that the same word was used for the weights as for the coinage, which represented the weight of silver. According to this division, the pound contains 120 *tsian* or *mace*, or Japanese *momme*, which was again subdivided into tenths, hundredths, thousandths &c.*

It has therefore been shown that in China, weights, measures, coinage and the tuning of musical instruments have been derived quite consistently from a constant unit supplied by nature herself; and that the essentials of this system are almost over 4,600 years old.

For that time, and for the result to be attained, this unit was chosen most judiciously; for accurate conceptions of mathematical exactness, however, its invariability is doubtful; and the method of starting from a very small unit and by the simple arrangement of grains of seed, in a row, to arrive at the larger units, is too much exposed to error. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at that the ancient Chinese measures, which are still maintained, do not exactly agree with each other. Neither has the length of the foot been always fixed by means of millet seed, because the Chinese have for a long time had real standard measures. Hence, (and this is the chief point) the unit system in their weights and measures and its connection with the music, has always been preserved intact, as will be shown farther on by a striking example. In order also to make the procedure of placing the grains of seed in a row as accurate as possible, a rule was made in the commencement, that the seeds should be sorted through sieves or by some other treatment, so that the larger and smaller ones should be excluded, and only those of medium size be used.

Later authors have naturally sought to restore the original key-note pipe of Lyng-lun, and have made various calculations, but notwithstanding some difference in the hypotheses, they are all based on a length of eighty-one lines or nine inches, and 1,200 as the contents, or on the condition that the circumference of the inside is one-ninth of the length. Similarly, all calculations, relative to the length of the twelve tone pipes, start from the same hypotheses. Frequently, also, a so called musical foot has been constructed. This is a hollow rod, with a square section, nine inches or eighty-one grains or lines in length, and divided on one inside into 9×9 and on the other into 10×10 parts. The key-note is given by blowing at one end when the other is closed. For musical purposes each of the nine inches is divided into nine lines; while the ordinary foot is divided into ten inches, and each of these into ten lines.

A work called *Dzuishi* (隋志) which appeared in the sixth century after Christ in the time of the Zui (Japanese pronunciation) dynasty, gives a comparison founded on drawings, the measures themselves, and statements in ancient works, of the foot scales used at various times with the *Yenken-shaku* (晉前尺) which was in use under the Kan (漢) dynasty, which had been in use for 2,060 years, but which is said to be identical with the measure used under the Shu (周) dynasty, and which was more than 3,000 years old; the latter is believed to have been fixed by means of the grains of seed. This *Yenken-shaku* is well known; it is 23 centimetres in length; and this corresponds well with the length of the millet seeds. The fifteen feet scales given in the above mentioned work deviate only a few lines from each other and from the *Yenken-shaku*; four of them however, are about 2 inches longer, and probably represented the "great foot," or *Dai-shaku*. Subse-

* It is known that the weight of a grain of seed was used by many nations of antiquity as the unit of a system of weights, especially by the Chaldeans, the Romans &c. A fuller comparison of these systems would certainly be of much interest; nevertheless it seems most probable that a system so perfect as the Chinese, developed with such consistent logic, and standing in the closest connection with other very ancient theories, is also an original discovery and consequently the oldest of all systems, and that it then, like so many other theories of the old Chinese, was propagated abroad.

quently, the scale was altered still more frequently, and it is therefore not of any special interest.

A *Yenkan-shaku*, over 2,000 years old, made of bronze with the maker's name on it, was recovered 189 years ago, in the neighbourhood of a temple in China; according to the Japanese pronunciation the place is called Kiyokufuyen (曲阜) in the province of Ro (魯國). The Emperor who reigned at the time this was made, i.e. 200 years before the birth of Christ, issued a decree ordering that all copper coins should have a diameter of one inch. There is a gold seal corresponding to this which was dug out of the ground in the province of Chikuzen in Japan forty-three years ago. The inscription informs us of the origin and the date, and by comparison with Chinese sources, it has been proved that this Emperor presented such a seal to a Japanese who visited China. It is exactly one inch square, that is, one-tenth of the above mentioned bronze foot.

A still more interesting piece of evidence which was recovered about 200 years ago is the celebrated standard measure or *Ka-riyo* (嘉量) of the Chinese *Omô* (王莽) a man who played a prominent part in his time as an able statesman and general. He set himself to the task of making a standard measure for posterity, corresponding to the ideas of unity in the Chinese system, which should fix at the same time, linear and dry measure, weight, and the tuning of musical instruments, and this labour, which was certainly a very arduous one for this period, he carried out in the following matter. He started from the hypothesis that the *yo*, or contents of the key-pipe, is not exactly 1,200 grains, but 810 cubic lines, that is, the pipe must have a length of 81 lines, and the inner section, which is circular in form, must have an area of 10 lines. Hence the next measure, the *ko*, must contain 1,620 cubic lines, and the greatest dry measure, the *hu*, a thousand times more, namely 1,620 cubic inches. His measure is a hollow bronze vessel, cylindrical in form, and bound with circular pieces of the same material; two smaller vessels are joined on it by projecting arms. It is provided with an inscription which describes the object of the vessel, its solid contents as above mentioned and its dimensions—the last in a peculiar way. It says that in the opening of the larger vessel a square of one foot each side will enter, but that a small space, which is given at .95 of a line, will be vacant between its corners and the circumference of the vessel. The diagonal of a square of one foot of 100 lines each side is 141.42 lines, to which must be added $2 \times .95$ of a line, the result being a diameter of 143.32 lines. The area of the surface cylinder is stated by the inscription to be 162 square inches; in reality it is 161.34. The writer cannot say by what formula the maker of this standard measure reckoned the contents; perhaps its diameter was only fixed by experiments, in which case this error was very possible, for in an exact cylindrical vessel the error would be less than three-tenths of a line, that is, three-twentieths of a line on each side. If the diameter was fixed by mere experiment, or corrected afterwards by comparison with the contents of a prismatic vessel, such a slight error is easily comprehensible from the simple circumstance that, with the means at one's disposal at that time, it was difficult to restore a cylindrical vessel which would be mathematically accurate.

In whatever manner the maker may have proceeded, it should be mentioned here, that if we employ the formula of the ancient Egyptians for the calculation of the contents of a circle, namely eight-ninths of the square of the diameter, we shall get the required area very nearly. This calculation would give us 162.296. The Chinese seem to have had a very similar formula.

As for the dimensions of the smaller vessels, these are derived in a manner mathematically correct from those of the larger one. First of all, the top of the latter is made to project an inch beyond the face of the cylinder, so that when the vessel is turned over, there is another with one tenth of its contents. The linear dimensions of the opening of the larger of the two side vessels is reduced to a fourth, and the depth to a fifth, hence the cubic measure is reduced to a hundredth of that of the large vessel. The sides of the inscribed square are two inches, and the space at the extremities of the diagonal is .19 of a line; the depth is 2.5 inches, so that the area of the smaller vessel must be $5 \times 5 \times \frac{1}{4} = 100$ times less than that of the great one. The linear dimensions of the other small vessel are

all one-tenth of those of the large vessel, and hence the area is one-thousandth of that of the latter. Finally at the bottom of the larger of the two attached vessels there is an empty space, which contains the side of a square of one inch, a space at the diagonals of .09 lines, a depth of five lines or half an inch, and consequently the 2,000th part of the area of the largest vessel, or 810 cubic lines.

Thus all the dry measures already mentioned are represented in this standard measure:— 1 *hu* = 10 *ten* = 100 *chong* = 1,000 *ko* = 2,000 *yo*; and at the same time linear measurements of a foot and an inch can be derived quite easily from the depth of the vessel.

But *Omô* was not satisfied with this; he wished to give the connection between the system of measures and music, as comprehensible an expression as possible. He fixed the thickness of the sides, the supporting rings and the mutual strengthening of the vessels in such a manner, that each of them when struck, gave the note *Osho* in different octaves. This note plays the same part in Chinese and Japanese music as our A of the tuning fork.

Lastly the total weight of the apparatus it stated in the inscription at 363 *leang*, or according to the Japanese pronunciation 363 *Riyo*.

Without going farther into modern Chinese weights and measures, which the writer cannot do at present, but which he may perhaps at another opportunity acquire for the collections of the Society, it seems suitable to give in conclusion some comparisons of Japanese weights and measures with those of the metrical system.

There has as yet been no officially recognized comparison made for linear measurements. It is however, already known that 33 Japanese inches make almost an exact metre, and the official recognition of this proportion has frequently been mooted. At any rate, the most careful comparison of two standard scales showed that this proportion is to be accepted as correct for the newly stamped scales. The comparison was as exact as a pair of compasses, and a metrical scale made for scientific purposes would admit of. Hence 1 metre = 33 Japanese inches, and one Japanese foot (10 inches) = 30303 . . . of a metre. In the case of dry measure, the official standard decree of August 1875 fixed the *Sho* at 64,827 cubic lines; hence according to the above proportions 1 *Sho* = 1,803,907 Litres.

In the case of weights, there is an official statement in the fifth volume of the *K'wan-to-hike* (官途筆記) of 1872 (Vademecum for officials), according to which 1 *Momme* = 3.756521 grammes, and consequently one Japanese pound or *Kin* = 160 *Me* = 601.04336 grammes.

From this basis the following comparison can be adduced:—

ORDINARY LINEAR MEASURE.

1 *Kane-shaku* = 10 *Sun* = 100 *Bu* = 1,000 *Rin*; = 10,000 *Mo*.
1 *kane-shaku* (foot) = .30303 metres;
1 metre = 3ft. 3in. Japanese.

CLOTH MEASURE.

1 *kiijira-shaku* = $1\frac{1}{2}$ *Kane-shaku* = .3787878 metres.

ROAD MEASURE.

1 *ri* = 36 *cho* = 2,160 *ken* = 12,960 *shaku* = 3,927.27 metres.

28.28 *ri* make one degree at the Equator. The *ri*, however, is not of the same length in all places; but the above estimate is that used in topographical surveys.

1 German geographical mile = 1.886 *ri*.

SQUARE MEASURE.

1 *tsubo* = 36 square *shaku* = 3.305785 square metres.
300 *tsubo* = 1 *tan* = 991.7335 square metres.
10 *tan* = 1 *cho* = 9917.335 square metres, or nearly one Hectare (more exactly 120 *cho* = 119 hectares).
1 Acre = 30.25 *tsubo*.
1 Hectare = 3,025 *tsubo*.

DRY MEASURE.

1 *koku* = 10 *to* = 1000 *go* = 10,000 *yaku* = 180,3907 litres.
1 Hectolitre = .55435 *koku* = 55.435 *sho*.

WEIGHT.

1 *momme* = 3.756521 grammes.
1 *kin* = 601.04336 grammes.
1 gramme = 266.204 *momme*.
1 pound (or $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo) = 133.1020 *momme*.

NOTE.

[Referring to the calculation of the circumference of a circle, it should be noticed, that in ancient Chinese works especially in the *kiu-chang-shiu shin* which was published about a century before Christ, but which is said to have been compiled from still older works, the circumference of a circle is taken at three times the diameter; but it says expressly that this is only approximately correct. In a work of the end of the sixth century, the *Mei-su* the proportion is taken at 22 to 7, and in a still earlier book at 157 to 50. The estimate of 22 to 7, corresponds very accurately with the calculation in the previous note; but none of the above estimates correspond with the statements of Omô about his standard measures. It is therefore very probable that he fixed the dimensions in question by experiment.

The following is a translation of the inscription on the standard measure, for which we have to thank Mr. Kempermann, the Secretary of the German Legation in Japan. For the better understanding thereof, it may be remarked here that the Chinese Emperors generally chose one of the five elements for an emblem, in virtue of which they reigned. Omô, who usurped the throne for some years chose (following the example of Hoang-ti, called by the Japanese Ko-tei or Ko) the Earth; while the dynasty Kan which was supplanted by him for a time, had Fire for its emblem. During his reign he called the country Shin, made some changes in the calendar, by which he altered the new year's day, and above all regulated the system of weights and measures. [The translation of the inscription, which latter is written in verse, runs as follows:—]

"The virtue of my forefather, the Emperor Ko, overran the land of Gu, and the virtue of the Emperor Gu filled the whole land of Shin. This was in the year of the constellations Tai-ryo (great-bridge) and Ryo (Dragon). Then I accomplished the command of Heaven, and received (the Empire over) men; and I attained, through the power of the Earth, to the true title, and to the Imperial dignity. The month of the bull I made the first month. My life was long, flourishing, and highly esteemed. I gave precision (throughout the land) to measures of length and quantity, and also to weight; and in this I followed the ideas of earlier men. This was in the year of the constellations Ryo and Jitsiu (the year following that above mentioned). Then for the first time I promulgated this decree. In all the provinces, people will observe them for ever, and my descendants will hand them down for ten thousand times ten thousand years."

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or sentiments of Correspondents. No notice can be taken of anonymous letters; whatever is intended for insertion under this heading must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

To the Editor of the *Japan Times*.

Dear Sir,

Your modesty thinks less of the assistance of your paper than I do, and I can as little agree with you in calling the influence of the *Japan Times* infinitesimal "as in some other points in your article No. II on "Fire Insurance in Japan."

There are five points of dissent between you and myself, three of which originate from principles and two from misunderstandings.

You are opposed to my propositions on the ground of principle in three points:

- 1.—The institution of insurance of buildings *at present*.
- 2.—Against making it *compulsory*.
- 3.—Against making it *governmental*—as you write: "Better to accumulate and publish the statistics and then leave the whole business to the growing common-sense and appreciation of foreign example."

I have had by your kindness such ample opportunity of stating in your own paper my views on the two last points, that your readers may judge for themselves, whether your reasons as stated in your critique, or mine as given in my paper, are the more convincing. I may therefore confine myself to the first point, namely whether it is advisable to institute *at present* the insurance of buildings in Japan, although we have only the statistics of two years at hand.

I am glad to see that all the facts which I have quoted seem to have succeeded in establishing, even in a sharp critical mind, a certain belief in the general correctness of my calculations. You write: "We do not so much quarrel with the amount of his proposed house-tax—one per cent—because though . . . in England, one-eighth per cent is about the average premium, still, for the present in Japan, . . . the risk of fire is not overestimated as being eight times as great as in England, especially when . . . earthquakes, . . . inundations . . . and a few trifles of typhoons are thrown into the bargain."

Notwithstanding this friendly recognition, which I receive with thanks, let us for a moment consider the average premium at which I have arrived as too great, and then as too small, and then let us enquire: "can the plan be carried out *at present*?"

If the premium be too high, it is evident that the insurer, be it a private company, or the government, would gain largely, so far as the premium is concerned, and that would certainly be no reason for withholding the benefit of insurance from the country.

If the premium, however, be too small, we must distinguish between the case in which the government is the insurer, and that in which the insurance is effected by a private company. It is evident that when the premium is too small, private companies must become bankrupt, and therefore matters would not yet be ripe for such private enterprise. It is otherwise, however, when the government is the insurer. If the estimates on which the house-tax is based be too low, then the government would for some years have to advance a sum to all the insured; the credit of the country would for a time be put under a contribution for the benefit of all the proprietors of house property in the country. Meantime more complete statistics would enable it to rectify the error, and to levy an adequate house-tax, and even one sufficient to counterbalance the lowness of the previous estimate.

You, in recommending private companies as the insurers, say with perfect justice: "wait for the observations of other years." But I, in recommending the government as insurers am justified in saying to it. "Introduce it at once, the subject is so important for the welfare of the land, that every month's and every year's delay is much to be deprecated. You must permit me to leave out of the question at present the compromise between your views and my own, viz. a private Company with the guarantee of the government. This would lead us into a too lengthy discussion.

After thus touching our differences on matters of principle I may now refer to those misunderstandings which are occasioned by my views not having been expressed sufficiently clearly and explicitly:

1.—You call it a "grievous mistake to propose to tax every house alike." I may call your attention to the fact that my papers deals with the *average* destruction, the *average* expenses and the *average* premium, just as you yourself speak of the average premium of England, where there are many classes of buildings for purposes of insurance. I may mention that I have by no means tried to hide the fact of the difference between the amount of destruction wrought by fire in towns and in the country, as I have myself disinterred from the Norwegian statistics the fact that towns built of wood suffer more from fire than wooden villages. You are quite right in regarding as important the question which you put to me as to what percentage of fires occur in towns and what in the country. You request me also very properly to apportion the risks and the premiums. I shall be very glad if a second paper, which I have for some time been preparing for the German Asiatic Society, and in which I am giving some statistics to the point, will satisfy your desire. But I contend that this apportionment of the risks and of the premiums is not at all necessary and that without it injustice would occur "*which no correlative or consequent advantages to trade or credit could out-weigh.*" The highest principle of national economy is the greatest happiness of the greatest number and not the highest justice to each individual or class of individuals.

2.—You call it another fatal objection to my proposals that I concern myself with houses only and not at all with the property stored within them. You expect that the insurances effected on goods, furniture and other property exceed those on the mere buildings which contain them. But a few statistics exist of the insurance of movables and immovables for the same region, which render a comparison possible. In Germany I take, with other statistical writers, the fire insu-

rance on movables to be only one-seventh of that on immovables. For instance there were in December, 1870.

Movables. Immovables.
Thaler 56,853,425 354,619,060 insd in the Rhine-province and
Thaler 37,695,620 227,367,450 insd in the Westphalia.*

In Japan I think the proportion would be much less than one-seventh, because the amount of Japanese movable property is still more unimportant. It may perhaps be a defect in my paper that it confines itself to the statistics of the destruction of houses, but I did not think it wise to attempt the impossible task of giving an independent estimate of the destruction of movable property here by fires and by other destructive agencies, and of the relation of the movable property destroyed to all the other movable property of Japan. I thought it best to establish one point clear and certain,—say the average destruction of houses—I thought that this would guide us by analogy to a tolerably correct estimate of the premium for insurance on movables. But, moreover, how could a “fatal objection” to my proposals for the institution of a system of insurance on buildings be at any time derived from the entire absence of any estimate of the average premium on movable property?—I think you will readily acknowledge that this expression is a *lapsus calami*, as I readily acknowledge that it would have been better if, in the introduction and at the conclusion of my paper, I had expressed more explicitly and more strongly than I have done, the hope that once the insurance of buildings was established, that on machinery and such movables as wares, furniture etc. would quickly follow. I may take this opportunity of answering your inquiry and of stating my opinion:—

1.—That insurance on movables should never be made obligatory.

2.—That the government, with certain necessary restrictions by normal statutes and a certain control against over-insurance should let this field free to private enterprise.

3.—That it would depend entirely upon the organisation and the working of the supposed government insurance of buildings, and upon the working of private insurance on movables, whether the government should at any time also enter the same field. It would therefore be premature to give a decided opinion at present on this point.

You object that by making government the general insurer on buildings only, and compelling the people to insure their buildings in the government office, there would be taken away from voluntary enterprise a large part of the inducements to start private insurance offices. I take a contrary view; government, in making the insurance of seven millions of houses compulsory, would make people acquainted as widely as possible with the idea of insurance, at present totally new to the Japanese mind. It would thereby give the highest assistance and promotion to insurance in general, not only to the insurance of movables against fire or earthquake, but also to other sorts of insurance, for instance, insurance *in transitu* (*Transport-Versicherung*), Marine-insurance, insurance on cattle, insurance of crops against inundations and storms, and, last though not least, to life-insurance. Hence the government, in making the insurance of buildings governmental and compulsory, would really *open* thereby an immense field for private enterprise.

I cannot therefore relinquish the hope that notwithstanding your own declaration, I may nevertheless have your valuable support, as well as that of the government and the people; and I do not expect or fear, as you do, that such a portion of the seven millions of Japanese houses as would change in any appreciable manner our present statistics of Japanese fires will be furnished with chimneys, open fire places, foreign furniture and curtains—complete.

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

P. MAYET.

Tokio, May 22nd, 1878.

To the Editor of the *Japan Times*.

Sis,

A copy of the “Hongkong Daily Press” for May 3rd was sent to me a few days ago which contained a statement purporting to be founded upon a paragraph in your

* Vide G. F. Kolb *Handbuch der vergleichenden Statistik* 7te Aufl. Leipzig 1875.

columns to the effect that I had purchased the “Shanghai Courier” for Tls. 12,000, in Chinese interests. I therefore wish to inform you that that statement is wholly incorrect. The paper has not been purchased at all. It has been leased, but not to Chinese, nor in the interests of Chinese and no Chinese has any interest in, or connection with the paper of any sort, or kind, either direct, or indirect.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. V. DRUMMOND.

Shanghai, 16th May, 1878.

[We hasten to insert the above. Mr. Drummond will soon find, if he does not know already, how difficult, how impossible, it is—for the conductor of a newspaper to sift thoroughly every piece of information given to him, and how much weight he has to give to the character, antecedents, known good faith and accepted accuracy of his informant.

In this instance, we had all these guarantees; we regret to find that still the information given to us has to suffer our present correspondent's contradiction. An intelligently conducted and well-written journal, such as the “Shanghai Courier” will be under Mr. Drummond's control, advocating specially Chinese interests—freely and fairly, not with slavish adulation of the Government or of every petty official—is, we think, a desideratum, and we are sorry to be told that we have been misinformed.

Ed. J. T.]

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (*Unanswered.*) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he or some one else may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can any one say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? “Shosei” in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, some other student may be able to do the same for it.

3.—Can any account be got of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c.

(*Unanswered.*)

X.

Qy. 9. I want information as to the locality of the signature of the original Treaty with Japan by Commodore Perry. Treaty Point, a mile or so away from the town indicates the spot: but was the treaty signed there in the Temple at Homoko, near which the butcheries now stand; or was it under a group of trees which stood on the site of the present British Consulate? I have heard both places assigned as the scene of the transaction.

(*Answered below.*)

B. A.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat; the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium temulentum* or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineae*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions.

(*Unanswered.*)

R. N.

Qy. 11. Many of your readers, when walking towards the new cemetery, must have remarked the *tumuli*, about twelve in number, which dot the table land which lies above Ota on the one side, and the hill of Tobe on the other. These *tumuli* are religiously preserved from the spoiling of the farmer, and must have some history; are they the burying-places of heroes fallen in some old quarrel? Can any of your readers enlighten me?

(*Unanswered.*)

T.

Qy. 12. In Jules Verne's work, entitled "Michael Strogoff, the Courier of the Czar," occurs a paragraph which touches upon the disposal of political exiles in Siberia. Speaking of their concentration at Irkutsk, during one of the Tartar invasions, he says "some are doctors, others professors, either at the Japanese school or at the School of Navigation." One does not of course, expect absolute accuracy in a novel, but is our ingenious author not a little adrift here! I shall however be glad to know if such an institution really exists.

(First time of asking.)

M.

NOTE.

NOTE TO QY. 9. B. A. will find a full account of the signature of Commodore Perry's Treaty in the large illustrated quarto published by the American Government after the Commodore's return from his cruise; together with an illustration representing his landing and the temporary building erected for the purpose of receiving him and interchanging the signatures. This was from a drawing made on the spot by an artist who accompanied the expedition. The place was where the British Consulate now stands, in front of a temple which then existed. Under a large tree there, was a small *miya*, or shrine, which was removed to make way for the building. The tree, a very handsome one, will be remembered by many of our older residents. Treaty Point was simply named in record of the event of the signature, and had no more to do with the document than had Daniel Webster with the island to which his name was given at the same time. H.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Friday Evening, May 24th 1878.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN! The expression of our hope that Her Gracious Majesty may long be spared to her loyal people must take precedence of all else, this twenty fourth of May. Her reign has been exceeded in length by those of but three of her long ancestral line, Henry III's, Elizabeth's, and George III's; in glory—the best glory, the moral and material advancement of her people—surpassed by none. Now, after forty-one eventful years of almost unchecquered prosperity and triumph,—for danger and difficulty have only presented themselves to be splendidly overcome—we appear to be on the point of engaging in a struggle with Russia only equalled in magnitude in English history by the death-grapple with Spain under Elizabeth, and the long, hard fight with Napoleon under the Georges. That the issue for England will be the same, no Englishman doubts, with or without allies.

The news received from home get every day more and more perplexing, but always seeming to indicate that we are drifting nearer and nearer to war. It is one of the counterbalancing disadvantages to the blessings enjoyed by a free people, living under constitutional and parliamentary government, that in such a crisis at this, it is impossible to act with either the secrecy or the decision which give so much advantage in striking the first blow in war. There despotism has all the pull. The Queen and Lord Beaconsfield, if untrammelled by constitutional checks—would, the best private authority informs us, having long ago arrived at a solution of the difficulty. But with a divided Cabinet, with an opposition led by a man who once had been a great statesman, led factiously, and in a manner calculated more than any other to hamper government—not using legitimate Parliamentary weapons, but those most easily made mischievous ones of public meetings and the press; it has been impossible for the great Conservative Minister to carry out a policy to the full, which would have replaced England in the position she occupied in Europe after the Battle of Waterloo and the Peace of 1816. But many of these difficulties have now been cleared out of Lord Beaconsfield's path, and we have at last a fair prospect that he will be able to give to the nation the blessing of an honourable peace, or lead it to the triumphs of a no less honourable war.

For obvious reasons, we do not often give utterance to our

opinions on European events or politics: we prefer to speak vicariously, by extracts from the better-informed London press: but on such an anniversary as this, we must be allowed a feeble crow and a trifling flutter of our patriotic wings. And as "Vanity Fair" is a paper not much taken in here, and which has recently shown itself to have as exclusive and trustworthy sources of information as used to be possessed by "The Owl," we have quoted from it, this week, a criticism of the Treaty of San Stefano and a review of the political situation, which we recommend our clients to read. Telegrams subsequent to the signature of the Treaty have not shown us any material change in the position of affairs, and the extract possesses more interest, therefore, than such padding can usually boast. To us, it appears the best and clearest view of the situation yet given to us by the English Press.

The *Tanais*, with the Marseilles mail of the 11th of April, arrived on Monday last, and the *City of Tokio* on Tuesday, 19 days out from San Francisco. After two postponements on account of the weather, the *Oceanic* finally departed for San Francisco at 4 P.M. on Monday afternoon last. The *Orissa* with the homeward mail due in London July 15th, was despatched on Wednesday morning last at daylight. The *City of Peking*, which our readers will remember, met with an accident to her machinery, will be delayed in Hongkong longer than was expected, and arrangements have consequently been made, so that the O. & O. steamer *Belgic* shall carry the next American mail, leaving here on or about June 5th, while the *City of Peking* will follow on in about a fortnight, taking the schedule time of the *Belgic*. These two opposition companies are much too friendly and obliging to one another; if they would kindly fall out, perhaps a trip to San Francisco and back as a summer holiday, might come within the means of a good many in Yokohama. The next home mail is the *Tûre*, leaving here on the 29th instant, her mail is due in London July 22nd. There is no other mail news of importance beyond the usual movements of the coast steamers.

An accident happened this afternoon which might have been serious: one of a class which we wonder is not more often recorded. At 4 P.M., as the *Tokio Maru* was on the point of departure a Japanese boat conveyed a passenger to the ship, and got too near to the wheel. A half turn thereof sucked in the boat, smashed its bow and upset man and boy into the water. The boy foolishly clung to one of the paddles, the wheel went on moving, and the poor little fellow disappeared up into the paddle box. Happily there was room for the shrimp between the wheel and the box, so that when the wheel swung back, he came down boy—not pulp, and swam off, more frightened than hurt.

On Wednesday morning; the *Kon-go-Kan*, Japanese corvette, which had been down to Yokoska to be put in order after her voyage out, came quietly slipping up the bay to her former anchorage. Only she turned out to be, not the *Kon-go-Kan*, but her sister ship the *Hi-yei-Kan*, from Milford Haven on the 23rd March, a very good run of sixty days. She, too, is from the designs of Mr. Reed, and is as beautiful a model, and in all respects as successful a product of naval architectural and engineering skill as the *Kon-go*. She was built, we are told, at Milford Haven, and by a young Company which does not seem to yet possess a dock or slip, for they built her on a mud flat. They have certainly turned out a splendid vessel. She has a four inch streak of armour plate, 100 ft. long and 3 ft. 6 in. wide, protecting her vital parts at the water line, her engines, magazines, shell room, &c., being all below this. Iron water-tight bulk heads running the whole way up to her upper deck serve materially to strengthen her battery platform, and divide her into a number of water-tight compartments. She has six boilers and compound engines with surface condensers, and all the latest improvements. It says a great deal for the makers of her engines that, though she came away without a trial trip, they have worked like clock work the whole way out. Her full speed is sixteen knots, but of course she came out under easy steam, and with four boilers only burnt twenty tons of coal a day. She steers beautifully and is easy in a sea-way, her head and stern being lightened, when not prepared for action, by an arrangement of her armament, by virtue of which her two forward and one after gun—her heaviest—are withdrawn inwards toward the centre of the vessel. Her battery is the same as the other vessel, six Krupp guns, three on a side, of fifteen centimetres, two forward and one aft, each of seventeen centimetres. She is barque rigged and is, we are told, a handy boat under sail; while her accommodations for about 180 officers and men appear superior to those in most of H. B. M. ships. We believe she cost about £120,000. If so, she is a cheap vessel; but the money had much better have been spent in making roads.

A considerable fire, by the way, occurred at Yokoska one day this week, but happily the valuable dockyard escaped without damage. We hear that the Mitsubishi Company have for the

present given up their idea of a dock for themselves. Also that, in spite of their terrible losses lately reported, they have been able to subscribe half-a-million to the National Loan.

Riots and rumours of riots continue to keep the Government uncomfortable and find food for the native press. The disturbance at Kagoshima appears however, to have been of no great importance or significance, and was caused by the want of proper arrangements being made on the occasion of a body of some three thousand *samurai* receiving their pension-pay. All crowding together to get to the pay place, they of course came into collision with the police, who are naturally not popular, over-bore them and 'made hay' in the office. The officials and police having all fled, the *shizoku* quieted down and, after lunching quietly on the scene of action, retired in good order.

A much more serious disturbance is reported from Formosa, where the aborigines have risen against the Chinese, and have killed and eaten a number of them. Japan would have kept better order in Eastern Formosa, we are inclined to believe, than China is ever likely to do. The famine oppresses this unhappy country as heavily as ever, and it is impossible to avoid the conviction that the dissolution of the Empire is at hand.

'Happy the nation without a history'—happy the community without Law Reports! We have nothing yet of intelligence from our local Courts to make up the next number of our series, but expect to have in a week or two. Meanwhile, a prisoner and a reporter have both been making little mistakes. The prisoner escaped, and as escaping in Japan merely means twenty-four hours holiday, or less, it is hardly necessary to say that he was quickly caught, and got three months' more imprisonment added to his sentence. Considering that 'hard labour' means, we believe, keeping the grounds of the Consulate in order—we remember distinctly, some years ago, getting much botanical information from a 'hard labour' prisoner who was picking caterpillars off the Consular cabbages,—it is odd that a man should care to run away: with the certainty of getting an addition to his sentence on his return. Perhaps the man Cannon is fond of gardening, and wanted to ensure, by lengthening his term of imprisonment, that he should see, at all events, the fruition of what he, may be, sowed last week.

The member of our own guild referred to, got into trouble in a peculiarly simple way, and has come out of it excellently well—let us hope, from the Judge's sympathy with the Fourth Estate. This gentleman picked up a document just outside the Court door—which, considering that he had that morning been reporting the case, he ought certainly to have guessed was a document necessary to it and technically the property of the Court, for the time being. But instead of handing it to the Register, he innocently gave it to one of the parties to the cause, whose name it bore. Whence arose confusion. This happened last February, it appears, and upon the document at last turning up, the Judge sent for the Reporter and 'wiggled' him. So far, so good. But this does not satisfy our friend of the press, who incontinently rushes into point by favour of our daily contemporary the *Herald*,—who, with a saturnine humour very creditable to it, admitted the poor man's letter—and asks, in a charmingly simple manner:—"By what authority does Mr. Wilkinson presume to publicly admonish any person before a charge is laid against him?" We have not heard of his having, since, been fined for contempt of Court.

The *Choya Shimbu*, by the way, is only temporarily suspended, we hear, and its re-issue will be permitted in a few days. This is well: repression of legitimate expression of opinion is a mistake, and though the alleged cause of its stoppage was its publication of the letter of the assassins of Okubo, it is well known that the paper, being in opposition, has long been obnoxious to the government.

We are sorry to have to note an accident on the railway. A stoker was killed on Sunday last, falling from the engine, which was in motion, while he was engaged in oiling some of the parts. She went over his head and killed him instantly. Beyond this, and a slight fight between some Russian and English sailors of no great moment, this is about all we have to report under the head of accidents and offences.

Dave Carson's company left us for Shanghai this afternoon. We sincerely hope that these clever artists will have more success than they had here. Musicians quite above the average of such *troupes* and with a good deal of undeniable dramatic ability, with a quite remarkable and precocious child who will grow into a successful burlesque actress—and with the Manager, a 'host in himself' and at the top of his profession as a humourist;—still it cannot be denied—Dave Carson's Minstrels this time, failed to draw.

Hard times and general impecuniosity have to be blamed for this failure in part: then November and December are better months than May for such amusements; and finally, we have had rather a plethora of amusement of late. Mr. Carson's good humour under his disappointment did him credit and we cordially wish him, in the words of his benefit programme:—"Better luck next time!"

"EURYDICE" RELIEF FUND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

NAMES.	AMOUNT.	
	dollars.	cents.
James W. Lishman, R.N.	10	—
Staff Surgeon Laurensen.	5	50
Mr. E. Taylor, R.N.	4	—
Mr. J. Osborne, R.N.	4	—
"Japan Herald"	5	—
"Japan Gazette"	5	—
A. Mitchell, Esq.	10	—
"Japan Mail"	10	—
H. E. Sir Harry Parkes, K.C.B.	25	—
C. H. Haswell, Esq.	5	—
Mr. George Hodges	2	—
Alex. MacGregor, Esq.	9	40
Messrs. E. C. Kirby & Company	25	—
Alex. Glennie, Esq.	5	—
Capt. Dundas, R.N.	5	—
A. J. Wilkin, Esq.	10	—
T. G. (?)	15	—
E. J. Moss, Esq.	5	—
L. E.	10	—
H. S. Wilkinson, Esq.	5	—
G. I. L. H.	2	79
Anonymous.	5	—
W. R. Clarke, Esq.	5	—
J. W. Sutherland, Esq.	4	65
A. Townsend, Esq.	5	—
E. B. Watson, Esq.	10	—
H. B. Henley, Esq.	5	58
W. G. Bayne, Esq.	10	—
"Esto Sol Testis"	5	—
A. S. Aldrich, Esq.	5	—
Jno. Lambert, Esq.	5	—
Jno. Wood, Esq.	5	—
Petty Officers, Nurses & Patients at the R.N. Hospital 2 days each.	16	30
The Rev. W. F. H. Garratt.	5	—
T.	10	—
Messrs. Domoney & Co.	25	—
Messrs. Martin & Co.	10	—
K.	1	86
F. Petrocchino, Esq.	3	—
Mrs. Willan.	10	—
Lieut. Hawes, R.M.L.I.	5	—
T. B. Glover, Esq.	5	—
R.	10	—
John Hartley, Esq.	5	—
Col. Malet de Carteret.	5	—
James Begbie, Esq.	5	—
Messrs. Lane, Crawford, & Co.	25	—
A. M.	5	—
A.	5	—
B.	5	—
E. F.	5	—
E. F., Tokio	2	79
G. E. B.	5	—
C. D. Moss, Esq.	5	—
Anonymous.	10	—
Dunn Brown, Esq.	5	—
B. H. C.	5	—
Digby Murray, Esq.	5	—
P. Bohm, Esq.	5	—
B. Gillett, Esq.	5	—
H. A.	5	—
W. Mourilyan, Esq.	10	—
Dr. Hue, M.D.	4	60
Y. Duer, Esq.	5	—
A. B.	5	—
G. W.	5	—
Stun'Sail Jack	5	—
W. Anderson, Esq., F.R.C.S.	10	—
Total	501	47

Yen converted into dollars at the day's rate of exchange.

JAMES W. LISHMAN,
Paymaster, R.N.

H. M. Naval Yard,
Yokohama, 22nd May, 1878.

[We are requested to state that this list will close for Yokohama and Yedo on Monday Evening next. For the out ports it will be kept open a month longer.]

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE SILKWORM EGG NOTIFICATION.

(From the 'Chingai Bukka Shimpō'.)

THE Government has, in its Notification No. 10, cancelled the Notifications, No. 19 of the 2nd month of the 7th year of Meiji on the Regulations for Silkworm egg cards

No. 47 of the 3rd. month of the 8th year, and No. 39 of the 4th month of the 10th year on the alterations in the regulations; No. 32 of the 2nd. month of the 8th year, on Regulations for Companies for producing Silkworms' eggs and for the Silkworm egg business Association; No. 65 of the 4th month of the same year, on the additions to the Regulations, and No. 42 of the 5th month of the 10th year on the production of first Summer Silkworms' eggs. By the effect of this Notification, silkworm eggs have escaped the control exercised over them for many years and have reached the point of free production and free trade, that is to say; one may now use any kind of paper for the egg cards; is not obliged to join the Association; may use purchased mulberry leaves; may increase the amount of production; need not make distinction between home and foreign sales; need not purchase the expensive Government paper for cards; and has no tax to pay for stamps. Free production being now allowed, there may be some among the Silkworm egg producers, who greatly rejoice at it and others who greatly regret it. To explain more fully, these are as follows:—The producers of Jōshiu, Bushiu, Iwashiro, Akita, &c. who have at present a good reputation and value for their silk in foreign markets, will greatly rejoice at the Notification; those of Yonesawa, Shinshiu, Koshiu, Gōshiu and others who had lost the reputation and value of their silk, but who have hitherto been able to maintain business in silkworms' eggs, only by the existence of the limitation system, will doubtless greatly regret its publication. The effect of this Notification is, we may say, quite a revolution for the parties concerned in this business; and also it has an important bearing upon the general silk trade; and the action of the Government is in our opinion, really proper and praiseworthy under the present circumstances. It may, however, be argued:—is it not better to prohibit the export of our silkworm eggs, so as not to let the same quality of raw silk as ours be manufactured in Europe? Indeed this is often argued by foreign newspaper editors and is a very useful suggestion, but although we have the same object in our mind also, this is a matter impracticable until after the treaties with Foreign Powers shall have been revised. Further, if our Government gets the right to prohibit export, still it must not be done heedlessly, because when prohibiting the export of eggs—we should first carefully consider the character of the silks of Italy and France and ascertain whether or not they, in the event of our stopping the export of eggs, would be able to produce raw silk of the same quality as ourselves? Should we stop the export, they would doubtless, strive to produce such silks as are fit to take the place of ours and if they succeed in doing it, our having stopped the export would result, not only in waste of trouble, but in loss to the country of some ten thousands of *yen* which would be gained if the export were allowed to go on. We therefore declare the free production and free trade to be the proper action under present circumstances.

The reason we praise this Notification and take the side of free production and free trade, is because we anticipate that the silk business will become greatly flourishing in future. Producers in Jōshiu, Bushiu, Iwashiro, Akita, &c. who get good prices and have a great foreign demand for the silkworm eggs, have been hitherto, not only on account of the existence of the limitation system (as they have been allowed to produce only a quantity in equal proportion to others) unable to produce to their satisfaction, but although they have had a surplus of mulberry gardens, have been unable to make use of such. On the other hand, those in Yonesawa and other places, whose eggs were not liked by foreigners, through the existence of the limitation system which put a limit to the production of others, have been able, though at a low price, to dispose of their own. Thus silk producers have all hitherto been doing business in the old way; but now since their own free production and free trade is allowed, those in Jōshiu, Bushiu and others who have hitherto been obliged to limit their production, will increase it to the fullest extent and as future transactions are important, will export only eggs of the best quality. While on the other hand, silk growers in Yonesawa, Shinshiu and others, will—since if they bring eggs to Yokohama, they will not be purchased by foreigners,—give up the production of eggs altogether, to devote themselves entirely to the manufacture of raw silk. That foreigners like those of Jōshiu, Bushiu and other

districts; and dislike those of Yonesawa &c., may in some measure be on account of the quality, but is mostly on account of their suitability to foreign climates. This will be well understood from the fact that the raw silk of Shinshiu is really superior in quality to that of Akita. We therefore conclude, that if the silk egg producers of Yonesawa, Shinshiu and others, with the energy which they have hitherto shewn in the production of silk worm eggs, will now produce raw silk, and those of Jōshiu, Bushiu and other places, will strive to increase the production of silk worm eggs so as to meet the foreign demand, both the silk worm eggs and the raw silk business will greatly advance in prosperity. This is what we expect in the future. In addition, there is a point for which we cannot but praise the Notification which allowed free production and free trade in silk worm eggs. Although the Government's interference with the production or trade may be temporarily advantageous, it would finally prove to be no better than leaving it free and simply protecting the convenience of the people. Indeed the Government has more than once interfered with this business of silk worm eggs, in order to maintain their normal value, but we have never seen any good effect of its interference. This is sufficient to prove that in all things the advantage derived from the Government's interference is not more than that of allowing trade to be free. Undoubtedly, Government, seeing all this, has issued this Notification and therefore it cannot be an error for us to say, that the action of our Government is now directed towards "Freedom," at which we are extremely pleased.

MANUFACTURES IN JAPAN.

(From the 'Chingai Bakka Shimpo'.)

MANUFACTURING art in our country has gradually advanced, and we can now manufacture numerous things in imitation of foreign make; of which the principal and best known are boots, stockings, knitted work, under-shirts, matches, paper, soap, paste-board, silk for umbrellas, pencils, slates, bags, pocket-books, cigar-cases, hats, sticks, cigarettes and cigars, cakes, taffachellas, cotton-cloth, flannel, silk-handkerchiefs, beer, wine, perfumed water, stoves, glass-ware, furniture, &c. And although some of these are not yet as good as those of foreign make, some, such as boots, and matches, are greatly improved in quality, and not only are they not inferior for practical use, but their prices are cheap and yet very profitable to the makers. This is indeed a subject for congratulation. But that the productions of foreign countries are much more appreciated than those of their native make, seems to be a general national feeling all over the world. Actually in Europe too. For instance, people in Spain and Portugal are so bound by this custom, that they only wear hats, things made in Paris. Indeed, unless they wear hats, boots, &c., with the Paris marks on, they consider themselves somewhat disgraced. Such being the custom, the products of these countries are, in order to get them purchased by the natives, exported to France and after receiving the Paris marks, are then again imported, thus paying double customs duties and consequently making the prices dearer. On the other hand, the people, not knowing that they are the products of their own country, purchase them simply by the marks and are very proud of them. In our country, the custom of appreciating foreign things (although our boots, umbrellas &c. are good in quality and cheap in price, they are not favoured) being still more prevalent; there are not a few who purchase things at an unprofitably high price simply for their "foreign make" and are very proud of them. But we have heard from a foreigner who tested the Japanese and Foreign silk for umbrellas, that he found that the latter has worn out in one year, whilst the former lasted for two years, and that he, ever since that time, has employed Japanese silk only. Japanese silk-cloth contains a greater quantity of silk than it appears to have, whilst the foreign contains but very little: the latter, however, being made so bright in colour, and heavy in weight by chemical means, although it appears to be thicker than the Japanese, only lasts a much shorter time. How is it that our countrymen, without making such observations, purchase things at a high price simply because they are foreign make? Although these may seem like trifling things, they are not so; for this habit prevents, in a great measure, the advancement of

manufacturing arts. In Spain and Portugal, although the people are not unskilful in manufacturing arts, their advance having been prevented by this custom, the prosperity of the country is far from being in a hopeful state, but is gradually drooping towards decay. Is this not sad? In a country like ours, where the manufacturing art is yet green, we must strive to assist its advancement. Thus arguing, readers might take us to be of those who are in favour of decreasing or resisting imports. But we are certainly not of those who form such an obstinate opinion, and we only wish to explain the means of improving manufacturing arts. We also do not recommend to employ the things of our own make notwithstanding the quality or price, but we only wish to say that those things which are almost equal to foreign ones, in quality and price, and not inferior in actual use, should be used as much as possible and assistance be given in this way to the advancement of manufactures in the country. If the higher classes of our countrymen, seeing into this, would direct their attention towards home made things and employ them, as the things liked by higher classes are also liked by the lower, the whole community would take the same course. This is the best and easiest way for improving manufactures and Government notifications or protection can do no better than this.

ENGLAND'S DISTRESS IS INDIA'S OPPORTUNITY.

(From the *Choya Shimbun*.)

FROM what recent telegrams report, a declaration of war between Russia and England seems to be close at hand. At this, I was startled and said to myself "now is the time that British India may obtain independence." If I say so, people may argue that: "England being one of the greatest nations of Europe, and the country being so rich and the soldiers so strong, that all the nations of the five continents are afraid of her and, even Russia, who is so pugnacious and acquisitive, even after so many successive victories, seems to be somewhat afraid; so now how could the East Indians, who are poor and weak, manage to gain their independence:—they would no doubt be quickly defeated. Some may ask, am I not aware that the East Indians have already more than once revolted, but were always unsuccessful, which is a sufficient proof that a successful revolt is impossible. And suppose that they succeed in their attempt, their success or failure is no concern of ours? They may succeed or they may fail. At present the civilization of our country is yet very shallow and all things are far from being complete; thus we have much to discuss concerning our own affairs and rather than waste valuable time on such a useless subject, it would be better to discuss matters useful to our country." This may seem reasonable to some, who do not thoroughly understand my views. Let me therefore explain.

A child may know, that any attempt of the poor, weak East Indians to resist rich and powerful England and to gain their independence, seems a vain one, but success or failure depends a good deal upon chance and must not always be conjectured from the size or strength of any country. Should the poor always be unable to challenge the rich, the few challenge the many, Riuri could not have defeated Shin, and the Americans could not have gained independence. The reason that these succeeded, was simply through a combination of fortunate circumstances. England is very great and powerful, but Russia is equally so, and if, at the commencement of hostilities between these great powers, the people of India combined their forces, hoisted the flag of independence throughout the country and fought with the English heroically, it is certain that England, having a great enemy in Russia, will not be able to attend much to Indian troubles, and further, there are, throughout all the provinces of India, not a few who are brooding over their dissatisfaction against England, and if they hear of the British Indians attempting to gain their independence, they would rise in all directions, Afghanistan would come to help, Burmah would join in the attempt. If all these people joined their forces and fought with desperation, although they might have to employ hoes and spades in the place of other weapons and straw mats for flags, they will surely succeed. This is the reason I say that British India must not lose this opportunity.

If any one says "that the rise or fall of India is no

concern of ours," he must be greatly mistaken. Look at the actual state of the whole continent of Asia. The land is nearly all being swallowed up by the white people, the natives are nearly all made their servants, indeed the state of affairs is such as no man can bear to think of, and although there are two or three countries which call themselves independent, they also are now being invaded by the whites and although having the name of independent, yet are not so in reality.

The general state of Asia is such a decaying one, that unless we restore it, we—the people of Eastern countries, can not escape from becoming the slaves of the whites. This is what patriotic people have often been regretting long before me. Therefore we cannot put aside the question of the rise or fall of the East Indians, who are our brothers, but heartily wish that they would shake off their yoke and restore the natural right of individuals to themselves and thus gain happiness, as such happiness does not only belong to them alone, but to all the continent of Asia, as well as ourselves. Ah! the opportunity does not often occur, and it is easy to lose it. When could British India expect to gain its independence, if not at the present time?

EXTRACT.

IS THE TREATY OF SAN STEFANO TO STAND OR NOT?

(From 'Vanity Fair'.)

TO avoid the closest examination of the position now, with the hope that some solution will come of itself, would be to act like a surgeon who, when a patient came to him with a limb torn by the teeth of a mad dog, should be too faint-hearted to apply the actual cautery; but, instead of this, should wrap a bandage round the wound, and, as the gangrened surface inflamed and the virus spread, should place another bandage and another over the first one, rather than examine the wound itself.

Now or never, England must face the conditions which she has herself brought about from the action of her Government during the past two years; and it must be stated, *in limine*, that the Treaty of San Stefano is the natural and logical consequence of the Conference of 1876. The meeting to discuss the internal concerns of Turkey has brought the Russians into the suburbs of Constantinople, given them command of the capital, and placed the Ottoman Empire in their grasp.

The question now is whether the catastrophe is reparable or not. If it cannot be retrieved, then the Treaty of San Stefano must stand. Bulgaria must become a Russian province, garrisoned by Russian troops, and with the Bulgarians conscribed and divided into a new *corps d'armée* to act against Austria when the time comes. The Danube must be in Russian hands, that its navigation may be closed to Roumanian and Hungarian exports, and Roumania and the Kingdom of Hungary must be ruined. Commanding points, such as Salonica, must be given to Russia in the Mediterranean—no obstacle must intervene between her and the possession of Constantinople whenever it suits her to take possession. The eastern ports of the Black Sea must also belong to her, and so must the line of fortresses domineering Turkey in Asia, and the frontier of Persia, so that she may send *matériel* and supplies from every part of her dominions, not as heretofore, down the Volga or across the shallow Caspian, but by a new, easy, and safe route, whenever it suits her to reinforce her armies in Central Asia, on the borders of Afghanistan, and on the actual confines of British India.

She must be accepted in India by the Mussulmans as the protector of the head of their religion, prepared to free them from the abhorred British yoke. The Sultan must be a puppet in her hands; and the Turkish people, deprived of trade, unable to cultivate, ruined to the last para, and indebted in the sum of £41,000,000, indignant also with the treachery of England, must give to Russia the military service of vassals instead of the millions due, and must turn their arms, when ordered, either westward against Austria, or eastward against Persia, and then together with Persia, against the rule of England in India.

There is no exaggeration in this. It is as sure to come as the sun is to set to-morrow. No one can say what diplomatic mystifications may intervene, as no one can say whether between this and next sun-setting the weather will be fair or

cloudy; the metaphor, however, is not perfect, for it is not for man to change the course of the sun, but it is humanly possible to stay the downfall of England.

It cannot be done by negotiations or other diplomatic means. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg has certain precise and definite objects, from which they can no more be turned aside by the best reasoned Foreign Office despatches than a set of burglars can be deterred from a well-planned jewel robbery by the curate of the parish sending them a tract on the Eighth Commandment. With them the revolver or the policeman's truncheon is the only argument; nor would it be sufficient to deter the gang by a show of force for a night or two. Until there be capture and condign punishment, the coveted heirlooms cannot be considered safe.

What then can we do now, and what can Russia do? It must be admitted at once that she has got the most precious jewel of all in her grasp. Lord Derby's remarkable sentence, "The final question is, who is to have Constantinople?" has been answered. Russia has got it.

Let there be no cavilling here. On the 3rd of March the Treaty was signed under coercion. The Russian force of 40,000 men was under arms all day ready to enter the capital in case the Turks delayed any longer, and these were the words used by a Turkish Minister:—"We have signed the instrument of torture, and England must now look after herself." This force has not been reduced; it has been augmented. It has advanced to the Valley of Sweet Waters on the Golden Horn, and can at any moment enter or burn the city itself.

This is the one sole strong point of the Russian position. They have command of Constantinople, and can burn it when they like. It is no use disguising that this gives them an enormous advantage. In all other respects they are incalculably weaker than and inferior to England.

First as to Russia's military strength. From the Danube to Adrianople the Black Plague—the most frightful of scourges to humanity—is now raging. The troops of the Czar are dying daily by hundreds; the unburied carcasses of animals and men are spreading the infection; the season is the most unfavourable. From the north and from the south of the Balkans the armies must be withdrawn or perish miserably.

It is not a question of marching English soldiers to encounter Russian ones. Everyone knows, or ought to know, that the English naval force at the Dardanelles, having vessels in the Sea of Marmora and also in the Gulf of Saros, can take the isthmus and completely command it. Nothing would be easier than to land British troops there if necessary; but the fleet commands it, and it is not easy to see how a land force is required.

With Austria and England equally determined that the Treaty of San Stefano should not stand—and with Roumania to back them—what could Russia do, even granted that she had command of the Black Sea? True, as stated before, that she has Constantinople, so to speak, in pledge. But what use could she make of it? She would hardly burn it herself merely as an act of malice and to spite the Powers against her; while with England commanding the Dardanelles and to a great extent the Bosphorus she could do nothing of an offensive nature against them; she could not fight her way back across the Danube in face of Roumania and Austria; she could not allow her troops to remain in Bulgaria to perish of plague; she could not embark them, except at Bourgas, Varna, or some other port on the Black Sea, and so she would be compelled to surrender all the positions she has been fighting for.

Meanwhile, it cannot be too often repeated that England has the most complete financial and commercial control over Russia. Assume that her Majesty issued a Declaration of War on the ground that "She felt acted on by the sympathy of her people with Right against Wrong, by a desire to avert from her dominions most injurious consequences, and to save Europe from the preponderance of a Power which has violated the faith of treaties and defied the opinion of the civilised world," what follows?

First and foremost, this notice in the *Gazette* must be accompanied by a notification, diametrically opposite to the one by which her Majesty stated in 1854, that she would waive her right of seizing enemy's goods in neutral ships. The *Gazette* must contain this announcement:—"Seeing that the Declaration of Paris was never ratified by Us; seeing that it is in derogation of part of the ancient and fundamental laws of Our dominions which it is not competent for us to alter; seeing that the Treaty of Paris (of which

"the Declaration was not an integral and valid part) has now been violated by the very Power in whose favour We formerly waived the exercise of our maritime rights: We do hereby proclaim that We shall order all vessels duly commissioned by Us to seize Russian goods wherever they may be found, and to search all vessels for such goods, according to the Law of Nations."

In three months after this notification being issued and acted on, England might dictate to Russia whatever terms she pleased, and we hold that the terms should be these:—The absolute and entire abrogation of the Treaty of San Stefano. Armenia and the positions of Kars, Batoum, and so forth, and all the other parts of the Turkish dominions in Europe and Asia to revert to the *status quo ante bellum*, and more particularly the fortresses of the Danube to remain Turkish.

The Turkish Parliament has given proofs that but for Russian aggression it can well be entrusted with the duty of supervising the corrupt palace clique which surrounds the unhappy Sultan, and the disturbing influence of Russian agents of insurrection being removed, there is no question but the Ottoman Empire has the power of recovering itself. Bulgarian autonomy is now so patent an absurdity that it need not be discussed. This miserable and degraded people, who, it must always be recollected, are not of Slavonic but of Tartar race, will only be too glad to be freed from the horrors of the Russian yoke and lash they see impending over them, and to welcome back their old masters, under whom, as all now know, they enjoyed such a measure of sluttish prosperity as moved the deepest envy of the moujiks who came, as was ironically said, to emancipate them.

These, however, are but details. The first point is whether England is, or is not, at last to take a stand against the preponderance of a Power which has defied the civilised world and threatens us with the most dangerous consequences?

Lord Beaconsfield is now fairly on his trial. There is no scapegoat, no shield before him. It rests with him, having a Queen, Parliament, and a nation to back him, to put forth the might of England, and that immediately, to remove the sphinx-like mask he has so long worn, and to stand before the world as the true patriot and great statesman destined to recover Europe.

Or if this vote, if this calling out Reserves, be mere swagger to mystify and cover an intended compromise, then, in Heaven's name, the sooner he follows Lord Aberdeen's example the better. Let him take the Garter and retire into private life. And as there is not one man of any Party that the nation can trust, let her Majesty be entreated to resort to her old Constitutional practice.

Let her summon her Privy Council herself; let her preside over their deliberations; let each councillor record the advice he gives, and be answerable for it to the High Court of Parliament; and let no communication with Count Schouvaloff, or any other ambassador, take place save with the cognisance of her Majesty in Council. Then we may once more adopt Admiral Blake's maxim, "It is our business to keep foreigners from fooling us."

The publication of Lord Salisbury's despatch is opportune and valuable, as showing his appreciation of the results of this treaty of robbery and aggression. But if it bring about a compromise, securing to Russia all that she wants, though perhaps less than she demands, it might as well not have been written.

NOTES ON JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE.*

By JOSIAH CONDER.

ALL Japanese architecture, until the employment of foreigners within the last few years, has been, with very few exceptions, entirely of wooden construction. In certain parts of the country, where stone lies to hand in boulders or is otherwise naturally exposed, there are a few instances of its use in the construction of the walls of small houses and simple temples. There is a small temple near Nikko, about 14 feet square, of which the walls are built of oblong blocks of stone placed upon their narrow ends, forming the whole thickness of the wall, without bond, and having all the external joints covered with a large plaster roll to keep out wet. The roof is also formed of large slabs of stone hollowed out on the surface and cemented at the joints in imitation of tiles. In addition to this there are to be seen several stone bridges, large stone walls surrounding the principal cities, solid stone monuments to the dead, imposing flights of stone steps with stone railings

* A Paper read at the Royal Institute of British Architects on March 4.

leading up to the temples, lamps of stone and bronze adorning the temple precincts, bronze statues of gigantic size; and stone is invariably found employed in the pavement of courts, and as a substructure to wooden buildings in order to form a stable and dry foundation. On account of the constant fires which occur in the large cities, particularly during the winter, there are not many of the ordinary street dwellings which have not been repaired or rebuilt within quite recent times. The temples, protected by their isolation and in many cases by thick groves, also many important dwellings set apart by themselves, can boast considerable antiquity, but the ordinary domestic and street architecture is of comparatively modern erection. It appears, nevertheless, from such representations as can be found in books, that the arrangements and general appearance of the ordinary houses have not altered since very early times. They are fragile wooden structures, never more than two storeys in height. The walls are constructed of a vertical and horizontal framework of posts and beams morticed together, filled in with bamboo laths, laid crossing, bound together, and coated with mud in several layers, being finally plastered over. Sometimes the beams and posts show, being flush with or projecting beyond the plastered surface, and sometimes the whole is plastered over, framework and all. This latter method is employed in larger buildings, and in the "Kuras" or Godowns. A Kura is often many months in building, the mud, which is taken from the bed of some river, being spread over the framework in a great number of layers, each layer being allowed a long time to harden. The projecting timbers at the eaves are also thickly coated with the same clayey mud, and to the small window openings are hinged shutters coated to a very great thickness with the same material. The whole surface of the building is then plastered over, and finally covered with a coating of lacquer. These Kuras often remain standing after street fires, but they are by no means thoroughly fireproof, for the mud often cracks and falls off with great heat, and even under ordinary circumstances they require constant renovation and repair.

In the ordinary houses, one external wall or more, and most of the internal walls, are not filled in with plaster, but are open between the uprights, being filled in merely with light wooden screens sliding past one another in grooves formed in the head and sills of the framework, so that the whole partition can be thrown open at any part. Where light is required, these screens are formed of thin wooden framework, divided into rectangles of some simple design, and filled in with tough translucent paper, or in some cases in interiors they are covered with paper, decorated with patterns or paintings. Each room opens into the neighbouring rooms, and passages are seldom to be found, except in the largest of houses. Sometimes, however, the greater portion of a room will be raised about 12 inches above the level of the entrance, leaving an L-shaped space or passage on two sides. The raised portion is covered with mats, and used by the indwellers as the room proper. In small rooms the whole floor is on one level, and covered with mats. These mats are always manufactured of one dimension (namely, 2 feet 11 inches by 5 feet 10 inches, being twice as long as their width), and a room is invariably built, measured, and described, not according to its actual dimensions, but by its number of mats. They are made of rushes neatly woven upon a light wooden frame, are about an inch and a half thick, soft, slightly yielding and warm. The houses of the highest and the lowest, as well as all temples, have their floors covered with these mats, a little differing in quality. There is generally in one wall of a room a small recess formed in the framework, in which are placed one or two rows of shelves moulded, polished, and lacquered. These shelves are generally arranged in some quaint unsymmetrical manner, and both form an ornament to the room themselves, and serve for the display of vases or small ornaments. Even the lowest classes of the Japanese show great taste in judiciously disposing small treasures of good shape and colour to the adornment of their dwellings. They convert the smallest strip of land into a miniature garden, which they plant with well-trained shrubs and flowers.

The simple habits of the Japanese, both as regards resting and feeding, renders but little furniture necessary for the complete comfort of the householder. Small low tables, more like what we call trays, are used for serving up food upon—one being set before each guest. A metal-lined box, or sometimes an ornamental bronze receptacle, is used for the small charcoal fire from which warmth is obtained in cold weather. A room is invariably provided with one or more folding screens which, as the inmates sit or recline on the mats, do not require to be of any great height in order to secure privacy, and keep off draughts in cold weather. Small chests or drawers are to be found in private rooms for clothes, &c., and these, as well as the hibachis, tables and screens are mostly of some elegant shape and pleasing design. If a house be of two storeys, the upper storey is reached by wooden steps,

leading up from room to room, being composed of two strings with treads and no risers, somewhat inconvenient in their slope and generally without handrails. The ceilings of the rooms are wooden, consisting of the underside of the floor boards of the room above, crossed by the small joists supporting them, and sometimes smaller ribs between, dividing the surface into squares; the whole is polished or lacquered. Probably, in early times, houses of this class were covered with thatched roofs, projecting considerably at the eaves, or were covered with boarding and wood shingle.

In country parts there are now many roofs covered in such ways, but most of the houses in the cities have heavy tile roofs of great projection, with large ridge and hip tiles and terra cotta ornaments at the extremities. The roofs are often slightly concave on their surface, resembling those found on a larger scale in the temples, from which they are undoubtedly copied.

The Shintoo Temples, which are built in imitation of the earlier temples of that religion, prior to the introduction of Buddhism, have roofs of two plane sloping surfaces, very salient at the ends and at the eaves; and it seems from this that the heavy curved and hipped roof, which now abounds so in Japan, was an introduction from Corea or China contemporary with the religion of Buddha. The tiles are always of a greyish black colour, and the joints are covered with a thick roll of white cement. One great peculiarity is the size of the ridge and hip ornaments, which are constructed of several courses of tiles and cement, forming quite a little wall along the ridge and hips, terminated by large terra cotta ornaments at the extremities. These ornaments are most of them very artistic in shape.

In houses of two storeys the upper storey is sometimes set back a little, the projecting portion below being covered by a small lean-to roof. There is often below this another flat roof projecting some 3 feet from the lower wall to keep off sun and to protect the frail wooden entrances from wet. The roof is generally in part suspended from the roof above, and partly supported at wide intervals by light bamboo posts. Small gutters of bamboo are generally fixed to these lower eaves, with pipes of bamboo to carry off the water. In the hot season "sudaris" (a kind of cane blind which admits air and permits outlook, and at the same time gives shadow from the sun) are hung from the eaves to the ground. The above description applies both to the dwellings of the lower and the middle classes, the latter being somewhat larger, more cleanly, and better furnished.

The tea houses or hotels are on a much larger scale, and vary in their arrangements. They are very often planned on three sides of a little entrance court laid out as a garden—a verandah with a floor some 12 inches from the ground running round these sides and serving as a passage from one room to another. The upper storey also has generally a verandah covered with a salient roof, under the eaves of which paper lanterns are hung at night. In large hotels (called *Yadoyas*) there is generally a small interior court, in one corner of which, cooking is conducted in the open air, the rest being laid out in some ornamental manner, with ponds, streams, shrubs, and stone lanterns. Round this is an interior verandah, and often miniature wooden bridges enabling one to cross the court without dirtying the feet.

The dwellings of the higher classes, which are called "Yashiki," or "Miya," are considerably larger and more architectural. Their arrangement is very simple, being a group of somewhat low rooms, opening one into the other, having a lobby or hall at the entrance, and sometimes one passage from front to back. They are not more than two storeys in height, and are covered with a heavy tile roof of wide span with terra cotta ridge and hip ornaments, prominent eaves often supported by a rich cornice of beams and brackets, and having elaborate carving displayed in the gable ends. Over the entrance to the house there is a wide portico, supported upon strong posts which are often moulded on the edges. The lintels, beams and projecting rafters are also moulded on the edge, and carved with some flowing line of ornament, deeply incised upon the flat surface. Such ornament is very effective, being delicately and sharply cut, and can be seen from a great distance. The portico roof is either a continuation of the curved line of the large roof or consists of a smaller roof intersecting this. In the latter case a favourite form is that of a double ogee, convex at the ridge and concave at the eaves, forming a gable or semi-gable at the front. By this is meant, that on the front the curve of the roof is continued half-way, and is then, as it were, cut off, showing the sides of the end rafters projecting, decorated with bronze clasps and adorned with carved and pierced wooden pendants. In the large roofs the semi-gable is also a favourite form for the ends; in this case the upper portion is of the gable form and the lower portion a sloping hipped roof. What I have called bronze clasps or belts correspond to what, if placed at the end of a beam, would be called shoes, being gilt and engraved plates of metal placed in the

centre of exposed beams and lintels, serving for no purpose but ornament. They are much used in Japanese architecture. The windows are generally greater in length than in height, being low oblong openings filled in on the outside with thick wooden bars, arranged sometimes vertically and sometimes horizontally, the whole being open to the air. On the inside of these windows there are always sliding shutters or paper windows, to keep out wet or cold in bad weather.

The Japanese seem greatly to seek privacy for their houses; even when they are placed in country districts they are mostly fenced in. They sometimes have an open loggia to the upper floor as in the hotels, from which they can enjoy the surrounding view; but the approach to the house is invariably shut in, and the lower hidden by high railings of bamboo. In houses of one storey this fence often reaches as high as the eaves of the roof. The Yashikis are shut in in a similar manner, perhaps with a view to protection from treachery as well as the love of privacy. Not only are the whole grounds surrounded by a high wall on three sides, with a long range of buildings and strong gateway on the entrance side, but there is often a high wall or fence close up to the front of the house, through which the open portico projects. Between this and the outer gateway, with its range of buildings, there is a paved court, on the two sides of which, servants' quarters, stables, and other outbuildings are erected. From the street the outer gate and its surrounding buildings present in many cases a very pleasing façade. The long horizontal lines of ridge and eaves, as well as the horizontal effect obtained by the lower storey being constructed differently from the upper, is relieved by the vertical window bars and projecting bay windows on each side of the large recessed wooden gateway. The gateway itself is of very solid and strong appearance; thick posts, carrying heavy wooden lintels, which support the upper storey over the gateway, form the framework of the heavy doors. Both the posts, lintels, and doors are lavishly shod, belted, and adorned with plates of engraved and gilt bronze. The walls are generally placed upon a base formed of two or three courses of stone. The lower storey, instead of being plastered upon the outside, is sometimes covered with large tiles placed square or diagonally. They do not overlap, but are fixed to the laths, side by side, the joints being protected by a large roll of cement. The tiles being dark grey and the cement white, this treatment presents a somewhat curious, bold, chequered appearance. Placed symmetrically on either side of the gate are often two square projections, about 9 feet by 6 feet, of one storey, with an ornamental curved roof and carved gable. They correspond to our bay windows, and command a side view of the gate for porters or a guard who occupied these rooms. These projections have also a stone base, and are framed about four feet from the ground, with window bars and transoms placed very close together. They are protected when necessary by sliding shutters from within. Such windows also sometimes occur at the ends or the centre of the range of buildings on either side of the gateway. The other windows are either oblong openings, with thick wooden bars, or they are small projecting windows, framed out some few feet above the ground, and supported on carved or moulded wooden brackets at each end. This framework is sometimes perfectly open at the bottom, the whole front and sides being filled with close bars, and the top covered by a small curved lean-to roof. The inside is protected by sliding shutters flush with the inside of the wall of the room. In some Yashikis in Yedo these projecting window openings are continuous, running nearly the whole length of the building, with brackets at intervals. The whole of the exposed woodwork (gateposts, lintels and windows) is often lacquered in black or a dull red colour.

The smaller and inferior Yashikis are often of one storey only, and instead of being plastered or tiled, are frequently boarded with planks nailed on to the wooden framework slightly overlapping at the lower edge to carry off wet. The whole is stained a dull black colour. The outer walls, referred to as being placed round dwellings of this class, are either fences made of strong wooden posts and beams covered with planking, and protected by a little tile roof supported upon brackets at the top; or they are of considerable thickness constructed in alternate layers of tiles and cement, the cement being as thick in its layers as the tiles. The top is protected from wet and decay by a little projecting tile roof, with ridge tiles and ornaments similar to the roofs of small buildings. There are no instances of the walls of dwellings themselves being constructed in this way with tiles and cement. At the back of the dwelling within the surrounding walls are large grounds, generally laid out very prettily as a landscape garden. These Japanese gardens abound in grassy mounds and terraces, planted with an endless variety of trees and shrubs fantastically trained, with groups of large stone slabs and boulders, running streams, small lakes, fancy bridges and stone lanterns.

The military architecture of Japan seems not to have been much more substantial than the rest, though many cities contain large moats and the stone walls within which the castle buildings stood. The central portion of the city of Tokio is surrounded several times spirally by a deeply-cut moat with large grassy slopes. Towards the centre, this spiral forms a complete enclosure, and on the inside of this inner moat is a thick stone wall constructed in large polygonal blocks, which originally carried wooden defensive constructions surrounding the castle within. The larger number of these wooden constructions were pulled down some years ago, but those few that remain form, with the solid walls, deep moats and strong gateways, an extremely picturesque feature of the city. Comparing these remains with a rough plan of a castle, taken from a Japanese book, it appears that there were in the centre enclosure of these fortresses, one central building or keep of a towerlike form. Each storey is set a little back within the lower, the projecting portion below being covered with a very salient roof, adorned in some instances by little excrescent roofs presenting richly-carved gables. The top roof, which is generally hipped, is slightly concave and has a very bold projection. The towers are often oblong in plan, and then the ridge of the roof ends in a small gable, terminating in a hipped roof. These crowning roofs also carry little dormer gables, apparently neither used for light or ventilation, but as ornament; they are generally little roofs of a curved form. In addition to these dormers, the ridge and hip tiles are richly adorned with finials at the extremities, the ridge often terminating in a large representation of a dragon fish with the tail curled upwards, executed in copper. The walls are thicker than those of ordinary houses, but are constructed of wood filled in with mud and plastered over, showing only the wooden window-frames, which are filled in with thick wooden bars set closely together.

Close to these central towers is a cemetery for the dead with a little temple enclosed. There are also within the castle wall six or more large Yashikis, being the dwellings of the chief Samurai, or officers of importance and their retainers. In addition, a large mound commanding an outlook and several small Shintoo Temples, the principal one being dedicated to Hachiman, the god of war. The outside wall, constructed in large polygonal blocks of stone and backed with earth, is interrupted at intervals by large gateway constructions. The ponderous wooden gates are hung to heavy square posts with thick lintels above. These gate posts, some 18 inches square, often in pairs, are shod and belted with bronze plates, mostly gilt and engraved. The gates too are generally adorned with metal fittings. The approach is by a permanent wooden bridge erected over the moat. Upon the surrounding wall, built out for the purpose so as to flank those who enter the gateways, are erected towers similar to the interior keeps, though somewhat smaller; and also at all angles of the wall are two-storeyed towers. Between these buildings and the gateways a low building or shed covers the whole top of the wall, taking the place of the hoarding to our mediæval battlements.

(To be continued in our next)

THE "EURYDICE,"

(CAPTAIN MARCUS HARE.)

Copied with all hands but two off Dunnose Head, March 24.

IN sight of home, almost in sound of hail,
With a stern-wind the good ship sped along,
And her three hundred tars, young, lusty, strong—
Beneath her bollying clouds of snowy sail.

Eight bells! A darkness fell. With icy breath
Leapt from its sudden cloud the sudden blast,
Smote on full sails, and open ports, and past—
And ship and sailors had gone down to death.

Past—and sun shone once more on cliff and lea,
Sea smiled again, and sky got back its glow,
But all that life lay still and stark below,
For all the shine of sky and smile of sea.

And here and there, up from that ocean tomb
One rose, and fought with wind and wave, and fell,
And two of the three hundred live to tell
How swift that passage was from life to doom.

And now as hope, against hope cherished, dies,
And they that 'scaped a sea-grave, sleep on shore
Among the loved ones they shall see no more,
A still small voice to check our wailing cries,

"Think not these lives crowned with this death in vain,
Nor deem destruction falls with random sweep;
That they who past hence to that sudden sleep
Had been more glorious, in battle slain.

"Afloat, ashore, Old England's sons, each one,
Must hold life low as they hold duty high,
And ask not how or when 'tis theirs to die,
So they but die like men, their duty done;"

Punch, April 6th.

THE JAPAN TIMES,
A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE
AND ART.

Price Twenty-four Dollars Per Annum.

CONTENTS OF No. 21. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. MAY 35TH, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

The Silkworms' Eggs Notification. The Lessons of the Assassination.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Historical Account of the System of Weights and Measures in China and Japan
By Dr. G. Wagener.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dr. Mayet on Fire Insurance in Japan.
Mr. Drummond and the *Shanghai Courier*.

NOTES AND QUERIES.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The Silkworm Egg Notification. Manufactures in Japan.
England's Distress India's Opportunity.

EXTRACTS.

Is the Treaty of San Stefano to stand or not? (From *Vanity Fair*.)
Notes on Japanese Architecture. By Josiah Conder. (From *The Architect*.)

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Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

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Okubo Toshimiteni.
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Remarkable rescue of a Portuguese Seaman.
Notes of the Week. Notes and Queries.
Papers of the German Asiatic Society. Collective Fire Insurance in Japan.
By Dr. P. Mayet.
The Times of Taiko. By Capt. F. Brinkley, R.A. Chap. 20. The End.
Mail Steamer Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c.
Advertisements.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c.

Bread	...	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	...	...	...	...	.10 to .18	"
Mutton	"	"	...	...	.19 to .30	"
Veal	"	"	...	...	.25	"
Pork	"	"	...	...	.12 to .16	"
Sausages	"	"	...	...	.30	"
Beef—Jap. Butchers	...	...	...	...	.10 to .16	"
Mutton	"	"	...	...	.16 to .25	"
Veal	"	"	...	...	.20	"
Pork	"	"	...	...	.10	"
Sausages	"	"	...	...	.20	"
Eggs	...	...	...	...	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	...	...	...	...	.30 to .40	each.
Chickens	...	...	...	...	.15 to .25	"
Geese	...	...	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Pigeons	...	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Turkeys	...	...	...	...	2.00 to 3.50	"
Bombay Onions	...	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	...	...	...	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	...	...	...	.12½	"
English Coal	...	...	...	...	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.
Japanese Coal	...	...	...	...	8.50 to 10.00	"
Anthracite	...	...	...	...	15.00 to 17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	...	...	...	10.50 to 11.50	"

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes old and new, sweet potatoes cabbage, cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes, lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery cucumbers turnips, carrots, parsnips, spring onions and turnip-tops. Strawberries are plentiful and very cheap.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 24th, 1878.

IMPORTS.—Since the date of our last report, the market has been in an unsettled state, the contest still going on between holders and buyers of yarn. There is no doubt a large legitimate country demand, but native dealers persevere in trying to beat down prices, in the hope that the rapidly accumulating stocks will force holders to give way. This, however, the latter decline to do, the goods being happily, mainly in strong hands, and we noted this afternoon signs of weakness commencing to show themselves on the native side, slightly advanced prices being offered. It is to be hoped that holders will remain firm and not quit their goods under the contract prices to which they are justly entitled. These dishonest native dealers deserve the lesson.

SHIRTINGS are neglected: but, naturally, this phase of our import business will develop itself, more and more as the yarn trade increases.

WOOLLENS are almost unasked for: the approach of warm weather putting them out of demand and our Quotation list for these goods simply gives us the three degrees of comparison applied to the adjective 'dull.'

In **METALS**, the market is very quiet, **KEROSENE OIL** is improved in price and is well held, in the absence of arrivals. **SUGAR** remains much as by our last, but firm. In other sundries, we have nothing to report.

EXPORTS.—**SILK.** An advance of about \$20 on Hank Sorts has been made this week; the few remaining bales of No. 2 silk being taken at \$550. A certain amount of demand is perceptible in Europe and some Sendais and Oshius of medium quality have also found buyers at \$500 to \$480.

TEA.—This market has been very active during the week under review: settlements up to to-day amounting to 4,900 piculs. The demand runs on Teas ruling from \$18 to \$22 per picul, but few parcels are to be had at the first quotation. Supplies continue abundant; but, so far, have not been much in excess of supply and there is little or no accumulation of stocks.

BLACK TEAS, so far, have mostly made their appearance in sample parcels of three or four packages merely: only one parcel amounting to as much as 25 piculs having been reported settled at from \$28 to \$30 per picul. Fuller supplies of these are looked for about the 10th proximo.

EXCHANGE.—Really nothing has been done this week worth mentioning. The tea will only be financed for as American mail day approaches, and neither in Silk or Goods is anything doing to lead to operations in money. No local business has been done between the banks and the only transactions have been for private houses and of a quite trifling character. Rates close firm this afternoon.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d. sight, 3s. 11d. Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 5.00. sight 4.91. Documents 6 months' sight 5.06. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 72½. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 7½ o/o discount. Private, 10 days' sight 1½ o/o discount. San Francisco Bank sight 95. New York Bank, sight 95. Bullion Gold Yen 391, Kinsatsu 429.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.
(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 1	April 3	April 5	" 6	" 9
" 10	" 12	" 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 12	June 7	" 9	" 10	" 13
" 19	" 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 26	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 29	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN Kobe.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March. 2	March 4	Mar. 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 3	April 5	April 6	April 8	" 11
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 5	June 7	" 8	" 10	" 13
" 12	" 14	" 15	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 20
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	" 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	" 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 22
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 5
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 3	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	" 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	" 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 14	" 22
Dec. 3	" 10	" 20	" 15	" 23	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

*. The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

*. No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

*. Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

*. Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;
COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 22	May 30		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 29	June 6	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Apr. 12	" 28		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	June 5	July 29	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	" 19	June 5		M. M. Co.'s -	London	May 29	July 3	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco				P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco			
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	May 19	June 10		O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	June 6	June 25	

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
May 20	Tanais	De la Marcelle	Frch. str.	1,735	Hongkong	May 13	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 21	City of Tokio	Maury	Am. str.	5,070	San Francisco	" 2	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 22	Hi-yei	Blackburne	Jap. corvette	1,761	Milford Haven	Mar. 23		
" 24	Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Jap. str.	1,870	Shanghai & ports	May 16	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* from Hongkong:—Messrs. Kingdon, Crangler, Campana, and Jervois.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* from San Francisco:—Miss Julia N. Crosby, Miss Hattie Gulick, Mrs. A. C. Rhoades and son, Miss J. L. Bird, Mrs. N. A. Hawes, Miss H. F. Elmer, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Macy, Revd. S. R. J. Hoyt, Paymaster G. W. Beaman, u.s.n., Messrs. Jas. F. Sutton, F. M. Varrel, D. H. McPherson, W. H. Anderson, Shuge Isawa, L. Pelly, A. E. Phillippine, and E. Phoenix. For Hongkong: Mr. Truxton Beale.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Mori, and family, Miss J. J. Mansfield, Captain Fletcher, Messrs. J. C. Allen, Jr., J. Bataisk, Wilson, Pestonjee, Gillespie, A. Brooke, J. G. Walsh, Robertson, J. Krien, G. T. Marsh, Wade, and 11 Japanese in cabin; and 4 Europeans, 11 Chinese, and 328 Japanese in steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Lader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17; "Bon Accord," Mar. 21.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Haze," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24; "City of Boston," Mar. 8; "G. H. Ingersoll," Mar. 15; "Hattie E. Tapley," Mar. 19.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM ANJER:—"Fair Leader," Apr. 3; "Fleetwing," Apr. 5; "Mary Goodell," Apr. 9.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.

FROM HONGKONG:—"Sunda," May 19.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"Gaelic," May 18.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Laurel," S. S. "Egean," S. S. "Imbat," "Berwickshire." At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str., May 28th; Hongkong M. M. str., June 5th; San Francisco, O. & O. str., June 10th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str., May 30th.

CARGO:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* from Hongkong:—General, 1,889 packages; Sugar, 4,887 bags.

Per Am. str. *City of Tokio* from San Francisco:—Treasure, \$371,528.64; Merchandise, 1,588 packages.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima-Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$3,966.00 and yen 136,418.00.

REPORTS:—The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Left San Francisco on the 2nd May, with 20 cabin, 5 steerage, and 98 Chinese passengers; 1,499.14/40 tons cargo; \$371,528.64 treasure; and 18 packages U. S. Mails.

The Japanese corvette *Hi-yei* from Milford Haven reports:—Left Milford Haven March 23rd, and arrived at Malta April 1st; at Port Said, 8th. Communicated with *Fu-so* at Suez on the 8th; left 9th. Arrived at Aden 15th, and Singapore the on 5th May; left 7th May. Arrived at Yokohama, 22nd May, all well, making the passage in 60 days.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DISPATCHED BY.
May 19	Takachiho Maru	Sikemeir	Jap. str.	1,704	Hakodate	May 23	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 20	Globe	Harrison	Brit. barq.	736	Yokkaichi		Ballast	Edward, Fischer & Co.
" 20	Oceanic	Metcalfe	Brit. str.	3,700	San Francisco	June 9	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 20	Orestes	Webster	Brit. str.	1,357	Kobe	May 22	General	Butterfield & Swire.
" 21	Madras	Richardson	Brit. str.	1,079	Kobe	" 23	General	Findlay, Richardson & Co.
" 22	Johan Irgens	Mortensen	Norw. barq.	730	San Francisco		General	Captain.
" 22	Orissa	Briscoe	Brit. str.	1,119	Hongkong	" 30	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 21	Ching Too	Baikie	Brit. schr.	307	Amoy		Wheat	Chinese.
" 23	Glenaber	Gray	Brit. barq.	650	Kobe		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 23	Laira	Trevina	Brit. barq.	549	Kobe		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 23	Marco Polo	Brockwoldt	Ger. barq.	307	Newchang		Ballast	Chinese.
" 24	Burmese	Luck	Brit. str.	1,200	Hiogo		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 24	Aristos	Erichsen	Norw. barq.	728	Hiogo		Ballast	E. B. Watson.
" 24	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,110	Shanghai & ports	June 1	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Orissa* for Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. St. George and child, Lieutenant E. J. P. Wade, B.N., Messrs. G. E. P. Cook, E. Lennon, D. Shipman, T. Hill, B. Beddy, C. Farmer and 8 Chinese.

Per Brit. str. *Oceanic* for San Francisco:—Dr. H. M. Martin, u.s.n., Miss Callaghan, Mrs. Belle Emerson, Miss Williams, Miss Lizzie Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, infant and maid, Miss Nelson, Mrs. G. W. Grannis, Lieutenant P. Garst, u.s.n., Messrs. H. A. Dicks, A. Grundy, O. E. Edwards, W. Rost, G. L. Harrison, C. C. Jewett, T. McCunn, W. McCunn, Montherot, Kreittman, Alex. McGregor, A. B. Loder, John Tracey, Paul McNulty, and W. H. Roberts in cabin; and 3 Europeans, and 575 Chinese in steerage. For Liverpool: Mr. and Mrs. Chs. Rome, Colonel Malet de Carteret, Messrs. M. W. Boyd, E. B. Joyner, C. S. Taylor, A. Walsh, and J. Pheaney in cabin. For London: Mr. Ed. Burmeister in cabin. For Hamburg: Mr. and Mrs. Nohr, infant and maid in cabin.

Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Hawes, Mrs. Rymer, Miss Eddy, Hon. W. Maxwell, Paymaster Beaden, u.s.n., Dr. Perkins, Revd. H. Maundrell, Col. Ono, Revd. E. T. Morris, Dr. Laning, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Carson, Mr. and Mrs. Norville, Miss Etta, Mrs. Little, Watanabe, Governor of Osaka, Iwamura, Governor of Yehime-ken, E. de Rozario, J. A. Ellis, D. H. Macpherson, Messrs. Ferrel, Phoenix, Da Roza, Geslien, Alion, Von Fischer, Panday, Reid, Arnold, Stewart, Fewell, Grant, Beaden, Aldrich, and Yeisho, Governor of Sakai-ken and 41 other Japanese in cabin.

LOADING:—*Tibre*, for Hongkong and Europe, May 29th.—M. M. Co.

Hiroshima Maru, for Shanghai and ports, May 29th.—M. B. M. Co.

Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Belgie, for San Francisco, June 5th.—O. & O. Co.

Obed Baxter, for New York, Quick despatch.—C. & J. Trading Co.

Glamis Castle, for New York, Quick despatch.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Manhegan, for San Francisco, June 20th.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

City of Tokio, for Hongkong, May 25th.—P. M. Co.

MAILS LEAVING FOR:—For Hongkong, P. & O. str., June 5th; for Hongkong, M. M. str., May 29th; for Hongkong, P. M. str., May 24th; for America, O. & O. str., June 5th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str., May 29th; for Hakodate, M. B. M. str.

CARGO:—Per Jap. str. *Tokio-Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure for Shanghai, \$11,270.32.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMER.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
City of Tokio	Maury	American steamer	5,070	San Francisco	May 21	P. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steamer	1,870	Shanghai & ports	May 22	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports
Seirio Maru	Frahm	Japanese steamer	486	Bonin Islands	Mar. 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Shario Maru	Mayes	Japanese steamer	800	Kobe	May 13	M. B. M. Co.	
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	May 5	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Tanais	De la Marcelle	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	May 20	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	May 11	M. M. Co.	Hongkong
SAILING SHIP.							
Belle Morse	Hutchins	American ship	1,307	Nagasaki	May 7	P. M. Co.	
Coldinghame	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Coulmakyle	Gordon	British ship	579	London	May 15	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newcastle n.s.w.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	San Francisco
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboyne	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	New York

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
BRITISH—Juno	8	2,216	Corvette	Captain Poland.
BRITISH—Kestrel	4	462	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
BRITISH—Modeste	27	1,913	Corvette	Captain Mead.
BRITISH—Egeria	4	1,011	Sloop	Captain Douglas, R. N.
JAPANESE—Kongo	9	1,800	Corvette	Captain Webb, R. N.
JAPANESE—Hi-yei	9	1,761	Corvette	Captain Blackburne.
RUSSIAN—Boyan	8	2,000	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
RUSSIAN—Vsadnick	8	1,069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.
RUSSIAN—Haydamak	8	1,100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$1,000,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—WM. H. FORBES, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., H. L. Dalrymple, Esq., H. Hoppius, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, Adam Lind, Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., W. S. Young.

Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillips, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.

E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.

Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila, Singapore.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "
" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND,

Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.
Reserved Funds..... £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Matale.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java..... Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premium:

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1 1/2	Per Cent.
" " "	6 "	1	" "
" " "	3 "	1/2	" "
" " "	1 "	1/4	" "
" " "	10 days	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2 1/2	Per Cent.	
Second " "	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1 1/2	Per Cent.	
Second " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,**
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each.
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " 250 "
	Ticket \$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
No. 166 F.

Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

GRAND HOTEL, NO. 20, BUND, YOKOHAMA.
AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

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NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 22.]

June 1, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

THE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENTS.

WHEN the young Emperor Mutsushito, eight years ago, in the presence of his Council of State, of the Kugés, and Daimios, took oath, on ascending a strengthened and rehabilitated throne, that "a Deliberative Assembly should be formed, and all measures for the government of the country be decided by public opinion," he was made to promise that the impossible should be made possible, and that work should be done without tools or material. It is an easier task to make formulas than to establish facts; and it was speedily discovered by the enthusiastic young men who put these words into their Emperor's mouth, that men untrained to debate could not usefully deliberate, far less be trusted to legislate, and that 'public opinion' had to be created, before it could direct the country's policy. The first expressions of 'public opinion' through the new-born press called for, among other reforms,—the abolition of monarchy and aristocracy, the establishment of a Republic, universal brotherhood—so far as communism and re-distribution of property on socialistic principles typify that sacred tie—the expulsion of foreigners, general opening of the country to foreigners, the stimulation of foreign trade, the return of the country to commercial isolation, and a heterogeneous multitude of other and conflicting changes. The only doctrine on which there seemed to be any *consensus* of opinion, was that of getting rid of any statesman who failed to meet each writer's views, by means of the simple old sabre. It can hardly be matter of surprise that the expression of 'public opinion' should have been immediately subjected to wholesome restraint, or that a parliament was not summoned, which was certain to fall to hard words immediately on its assembly, and too likely to betake itself, with short interval, to harder blows. Fresh from witnessing the triumphs of western civilization which are the result, mainly, of free presses and free parliaments, but unversed in the long history of struggle and disappointment and compromise, of which these blessings are the outcome, it was very excusable that the rulers of young Japan should have fallen into the error of imagining that to state an idea of reform, and at a bound to achieve its accomplishment, are processes so close in sequence as to be almost continuous. Conviction of their mistake has been forced upon them, and they appear to have grasped the truth of Aristotle's maxim 'First establish a polity, then improve its condition.' Eight or ten years of costly material progress, and of political advancement, checked at intervals by riot and rebellion which have only been repressed by more costly expenditure,—because lives more valuable than gold have been sacrificed—seem to have at last firmly established the existing form of government. And what is it? A despotism administered by admirers of constitutional government.

The publication of the Bill for the creation of Provincial

Synods in the *Fu* and *Ken*, a translation of which, as finally settled, appears in another column of this Review to-day, marks an epoch in the history of Japan very worthy of note.

The convocation of the *Chiho-kwan Kuwaigi*, or Assembly of Provincial Governors, though falling far short of the Parliament which was thought—and we, believe, meant—to be promised by the Imperial Oath, seems to us to be practically as long a step towards its fulfilment as could be taken safely, in the existing state of Japan's political infancy; and this, the most important of the three Bills presented to them for discussion, is most creditable to its authors,—the lamented Okubo and his friend Ito. And though the *Chiho-kwan Kuwaigi* have sent it back to the Executive very much as it came to them, it is an evidence of their good sense that the principal alteration they have made in it has been a conservative one, in the direction of limitation of the franchise. As it now stands, it is a proof of the wish of its framers to temper and ameliorate the despotic system, but, at the same time, of a wise recognition of the necessity of educating the people, to fit them for the reception of larger boons of liberty. The people are now to be entrusted with as much power and freedom of discussion as they seem to us at present fit for, and everything now depends on the use they make of them. Every friend of true liberty—not license—every true friend of Japan will watch with interest the working of the experiment, and will watch also how its progress is regarded by the excitable native press. The Synods to be elected under this measure, may have but a small part to play in the government of their provinces. Their session is very limited in time, and they have but small power of originating legislation. Their right of discussion, except on subjects introduced by them in the form of petition, is limited to such measures as are presented to them by the Governor,—in the same way as this Bill itself was presented to the Assembly of the Governors by the Cabinet. And any attempt to extend these limits may be arbitrarily stamped as 'seditious,' and cause the adjournment, if not the dissolution of the assembly. But, in spite of these drawbacks, the work of the delegates will not be thrown away, nor what we take to be the wise purpose of the statesmen who framed the Bill, defeated; if the Synods' deliberations draw the attention of their constituents to the value of self-reliance, impregnate them with a pride in even the infinitesimal amount of self-governance permitted, and gradually educate the constituency to an intelligent interest in the affairs of the country. And a certain amount of material progress may be predicated as likely to be facilitated by their labours. Sanitary measures—for instance,—the adoption of new systems of drainage, the establishment of special hospitals for treatment of infectious diseases, &c., are less likely to be resisted at point of pitchfork, under the 'mat banner,' by ignorant rustics, if such be passed in the provincial parliament by the elected elders of the

villages who are sent to compose it. In the same way, the use of machinery, recovery of waste lands, care of forests, construction of roads and bridges, re-assessment, re-adjustment of taxation, and a crowd of other improvements or reforms will be easily accepted by the people, if recommended or sanctioned by their own elected representatives, which would be perhaps resisted, certainly grumbled at, if simply ordered by Governmental edict. Thus, the Imperial authority will be strengthened, while, at the same time, the Imperial sworn promises will be in some measure redeemed. Whether the Bill will work smoothly and successfully, without still further subdivision of these Provincial Synods, is another question.

The term 'Municipal Councils,' by which our translator renders the Japanese title (*Fu Ken Kuwai*) has been adopted as one made familiar to foreign residents in China and Japan, as that given to the elective directorates of the internal affairs of the settlements at some of the open ports. As a title for the governing body of a district, or country, —an area comprising in itself townships and villages, populations urban and rural,—it is a misnomer, whether we consider its derivation from the Latin, or its signification as applied in practice in ancient Italy, or in modern Britain, France, or Germany. 'Municipalis,' 'municipality,' 'borough,' 'municipalité,' 'municipalität,' all imply the governance of free, or favoured townships,—as opposed to the governance of districts. By the privilege of 'municipality,' townships acquired internal autonomy, while the terms themselves sufficiently distinguish '*urbs*' from '*rus*.' But we retain the name most familiar to the majority of our readers. The point is of no great importance, for, under any name, the proposed syndicates must necessarily, we have grave reason to fear, be incongruous in their purposes, and irreconcilable in their action. The interests of 'town' and 'country' in no cases agree; wants and needs are dissimilar, wealth varies, population is inconstant, and rationally disproportionate. Roads, lighting, water-supply, provision for the poor, in each case have to be dealt with, and their expense provided for, in different ratios, and from diverse sources. Control and disposition of sewage, construction of buildings, rights of wards, guilds, trades and parishes, important in one case, are trivial in another. From an European stand-point, this is one view we must take of the Bill. But while we fear that conflicts between opposed interests, such as these and others, may mar the initial success of the scheme, we hail with pleasure the establishment under it of representative Councils. For, while they cannot fail to familiarize the people with the use and working of representative Government, and to gradually educate them to a sense of the trust and responsibility it confers,—they will also constitute a school for politicians, in which they may learn how to handle the keen edge-tools of satire, party-spirit, and declamation, with safety to their own fingers and others' throats, and in which they may show the Government, too, that opposition does not mean frenzy, nor the advocacy of a change of policy necessarily imply annihilation.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

TURNING now to the Bill itself, and considering it as a piece of legislative art, it shows a conciseness of design which compares favourably with the sinuous enactments of our own legislature. If we could assume, for the moment, that the internal arrangements of both *fu* and *ken* are such as can be satisfactorily managed under this Bill,—without prejudicing the conflicting rights of townships and of village communities, the scheme shows a simplicity of treatment which would delight an English Parliamentary draftsman, even while it excited his envy. Loving perspicacity and clearness, he always finds himself driven

into complexity and obscurity. He is ever trammelled with the necessity of preserving the relative positions of clerks of the peace, and town-clerks, justices of counties and justices of boroughs; and has to provide for the claims to the franchise of freeholder and leaseholder, compound householder and lodger—to say nothing of the vested rights of freemen, scot-and-lot voters, and even the humble but useful 'pot-walloper.' And sometimes, too, he is driven almost to despair by some time-honoured right with an obsolete name, some 'cinque-port' 'soke' or 'liberty' which comes cranking in and cuts 'a huge half-moon, a monstrous cantle out' from the best revenues of his county. Here, such vested rights either do not exist, or are not sufficiently powerful to exact any respect from the framers of the new measure, whose twenty-eight short clauses are therefore devoted to the enunciation of a few simple principles, and even descend occasionally to the regulation of matters usually, with us, relegated to the code of 'Byelaws.'

The first eleven of these determine the franchise,—the qualifications of the members of Council—and those of the electors. To the synod of each *fu* or *ken*, the respective *gun* and *ku* of which the former are composed send each from two to five members, according to their extent and importance: the distribution of seats among these various divisions being apparently left to the Governor of the Province, under Art. 26, which empowers him to frame the Bye-laws of the Councils. And here we may appropriately remark that, until these Bye-laws are published, we are left very much in the dark as to the operation of the Bill not only as regards distribution of seats, but also as to the method in which will be dealt with the conflicting urban and rural interests which we have enumerated, and—a most important point—as to the powers to be conferred on each particular synod for raising funds for municipal expenses. We are told in Art. 19 that the Municipal budget shall be discussed and adopted by the Council, subject to the Governor's approval; and also, in Art. 25, that the Governor shall, at the beginning of each ordinary meeting, produce the accounts of the preceding year. But it does not appear clearly with whom—Governor or Council—lies the power of initiating proposals for local taxation. This of course is the most important part of the whole scheme—power over the national purse once entrusted to the people, the other privileges of constitutional freedom must follow, and only the question of time remains for patience to solve. It would seem from the wording of this Bill, and without further information, that the central Government, while allowing to both Governor and Synod the power of discussion and remonstrance, virtually keeps the purse-strings in its own hands. We expect it will be found that the yearly Budget of each *fu* or *ken* will be framed for it in Tōkiō, and submitted to the Provincial Synod by the Governor. But from the provision that, in case of 'disagreement' between Governor and Council, an appeal may be made to the Minister of the Interior,—it is clear that the great step towards freedom is gained of ventilation of grievances, and as such will mostly take the form of pressure of taxation, the council may, in effect, gradually gain some control—at first perhaps indirect, over the finances.

We are glad to remark that universal suffrage forms no part of the plan; and though the small payment of five *yen* ground rent only per annum may seem to an English eye a perilously low franchise, it is not so in Japan, hampered as it is in this Bill, too, by necessity of residence. With holdings of land so minutely subdivided as here, houses so cheap, and the cost of living so small, five *yen* ground rent to Government implies the possession of a house and the position of head of a family, and fair representation appears to us to be given, by this provision, to property,

while the error of giving it an overpowering weight is avoided. And, by establishing residence and property together as a joint qualification, the allegiance of the voters to their township or village is secured; for it is to be noticed that no amount of property, without residence, entitles to a vote, or to a seat in the council: a man leaving one *gun* or *ku* and going to reside in another, *ipso facto* losing all electoral interest in the former, and having to vacate his seat in the council, should he have been representing it there.

Elaborate directions are given for the conduct of the elections, in several of these first clauses, but we remark with surprise—for the Bill bears marks of foreign skilled draftsmanship—that all provision for the nomination of candidates has been omitted. Also, that no means are provided whereby the candidates are to be brought to the notice of the electors before election. These are grave errors, and likely to lead to embarrassment. If the Government purposely excluded nomination clauses from the Bill, with the idea that their own candidates could be quietly put forward and a majority for them secured,—they have overlooked the danger of the same tactics being adopted by any factious section of an opposition party. Also, the voting being by ticket,—unless public nomination precedes election, there is nothing to prevent any elector nominating himself and getting a few personal friends to vote for him. The constituency may thus be split up into an unlimited number of fractional parts, and the members of council returned represent, by no means the *gun* or *ku*, but a variety of small minorities of its inhabitants. We should strongly recommend that nomination clauses should be tacked to the Bill, either in the form of bye-laws, or by a short supplementary enactment. Otherwise it is extremely likely that the people, directed by the press, will nominate their candidates,—at all events after the first election,—by the vicious process of secret caucus. The very breath of free representative institutions is publicity.

With the remark that the Presidents and Vice-presidents of these Councils are to be elected by the members, subject to the approval of the Governor of the province, while the Secretaries are to be appointed by the executive and presumably to permanent posts, we pass to the other division of the Bill, consisting of seventeen clauses, which deals with the duties and powers of the Synods, when assembled. Their duties are sufficiently onerous, but their powers are not extensive. Provision being first made against their turning themselves into debating clubs, and discussing the affairs of the Empire instead of those of their *ken* or *fu*,—a fault to which we should imagine the educated class of Japanese specially prone—they have first to pass the financial accounts of the past year, and to receive and discuss the Budget for that current: and then to debate on any proposals laid before them by the Governor. Scant time will be left for the discussion of their own independent motions, or 'petitions.' It is to be presumed that the session of their Councils is limited to thirty days, out of regard to the convenience of the members and the necessities of agriculture; and members receiving, as we are extremely glad to see, no remuneration for their services, thirty days during the year—with an occasional short emergency session—is as long a period as can be spared from the avocations of business. But one of the staple bye-laws of each assembly will have to be a limitation of time for each speaker: otherwise very little work will be got through in the month.

That the powers of the Synods are at present severely limited, and that a very firm check is retained for the Prefect upon their debates, evidences—as it appears to us—most prominently, the wisdom of the statesmen who had charge of the bill. As we have pointed out, these assemblies must be considered mainly as schools for future legis-

lators; the people of Japan are certainly not to be trusted, at present, with the powers of legislation: and, besides, we look upon the scheme as intended only as a tentative one. It will depend entirely upon the behaviour of these first councils whether their scope be enlarged or contracted, or whether, indeed, their continued existence be permitted. We look to them to display such moderation in debate and such loyalty to the Crown, as will prove that they are worthy of greater trust: should increased powers not be then voluntarily granted to them, they will find that they will have acquired such a power over the management of their respective *fu* or *ken* that they will be able, with good show of authority, to ask for them. For abstention from factious opposition to Government will deprive the executive of any excuse for repealing the Bill, and the power reserved to the Prefect of suppression or dissolution of the assemblies will be neutralized. The people, whose respect their temper and moderation will have won, will be at their backs. And even the exercise of that clause which renders ineligible for return in the new assembly the members of a suppressed one will be futile, if those members deserve and possess the confidence of their constituencies, for these would send back to the new council members pledged to carry on the work of the old. With newspapers, too, springing up, as they are, all over the country and means of inter-communication being rapidly improved; any arbitrary exercise of governmental authority in a single *ken* or *fu* will have arrayed against it the force of national, as well as of provincial, public opinion.

The limits of space which we can devote, in any one number of this Review, to the consideration of even such important subjects as this, and the absence of the Rules and Byelaws which, in each *ken* or *fu*, are to be framed by the Governors, preclude our considering, at present, the changes which will be wrought in the existing policy of local administration by the working of this Bill. We await the publication of these supplementary enactments in the *Tōkiō fu* and our own *ken* of Kanagawa with great interest. We have given ample proof that the principles of the measure have attracted our critical attention, and we think our readers will study it with equal interest: but we regard the application of the measure and of the rules to be framed for its working as more important still: as it is to these that we must look for the fruit of the young tree of Liberty just planted in the soil, and a great trust is imposed upon the Governors of Provinces, so to graft upon it the routine of their several departments, as to preserve intact its spirit and vital principle, that this fruit may not be disappointing and bitter to the taste. The people should accept the measure with confidence and gratitude; they have in it the germ of representative parliamentary government, and it depends greatly on themselves, and how they foster it, whether this ever reaches full maturity. And, finally, it is a measure most creditable to the present government, as evidencing a sincere desire to redeem the Oath they put into their Sovereign's mouth when they restored him to his throne,—and evidencing, too, their wish, prudently and quietly, to pave the way for the coming generation of Japanese freemen who will raise the country in due time to that place among flourishing constitutional monarchies to which the patriotism, high spirit, and intelligence of its inhabitants justly entitle it.

[It appears most convenient to print, here, the provisions of the Bill.]

ART. 1.—The members of the Municipal Councils in *Fu* and *Ken* are to be elected by the people in each *Gun* or *Ku*, as their representatives. The number of the members from each *Gun* or *Ku* is not to be less than two or more than five. In such *Gun* as are divided into several *Bu* each *Bu* may be considered as a *Gun*.

ART. 2.—The President and Vice-President of the Muni-

cipal Council will be elected from and by the members, subject to the approval of the Governor of the *Fu* or *Ken*. Neither President, Vice-President nor members are to receive any salary, but their travelling expenses and their daily expenses during the sitting of the Council will be paid for them.

ART. 3.—The Secretaries of the Council will be appointed by the Governor and act under the instructions of the President.

ART. 4.—Eligible as members of the Council, are persons over 25 years of age, born and resident within the *Gun* or *Ku*, who pay a yearly ground tax of more than 10 *yen* in the *Fu* or *Ken*.

The following are the exceptions :

- 1.—Insane persons ;—
- 2.—Persons who have been convicted of theft, or have suffered more than one year's Penal Servitude ;—
- 3.—Persons who have been bankrupt and have not yet finished their payments to their creditors ;—
- 4.—Government officers and Priests.

ART. 5.—The Franchise belongs to persons over 20 years of age, born and resident within the *Gun* or *Ku*, who pay more than 5 *yen* in yearly ground tax.

The exceptions are the same as those contained in clause 1, 2 and 3 in the preceding Art.

ART. 6.—The Governor of the *Fu* or *Ken* shall, by public notification, appoint a day for the election of the members and the *Guncho* or *Kucho* shall, likewise, at least 15 days beforehand, give public notice of the same.

ART. 7.—The elections shall take place in the public ward of the *Gun* or *Ku* and the *Guncho* or *Kucho* shall count the votes and generally superintend the election. The *Guncho* or *Kucho* may, if convenient, hold the election at places other than the Public ward in the *Gun* or *Ku*.

ART. 8.—The *Guncho* or *Kucho* shall cause voting tickets to be distributed among the voters, who shall get the same inscribed, at places other than the election hall, with the name, residence, and age of the candidates they wish to vote for, and shall hand the same to the *Guncho* or *Kucho* on the day of election. Those who obtain a majority of votes, shall be declared members of the Municipal Council and in case of a tie, the candidate older in age shall become the member.

ART. 9.—After the voting shall have been finished, the *Guncho* or *Kucho* shall examine the voting tickets and shall reject those which contain names of candidates who are not eligible, and adopt those who next obtained most votes.

ART. 10.—The members are elected for a term of three years, after the expiration of which, a new election shall take place. Members are eligible for re-election.

ART. 11.—If a member happens to fall under the category which is provided in the above exception 2 in the 4th Article to the general qualification for membership ; or if he does not appear at the Council, except from unavoidable cause, if he is absent through removal to another *Gun* or *Ku*, death, or sickness &c., a new member shall be elected in his stead.

ART. 12.—The *Fu* and *Ken* Municipal Council shall meet in the month of March, every year, for a period of 30 days. The Governor shall open and close the session, and if a prolongation of the session or an extraordinary session should be required, the same may be granted by the Minister of the Home Department, on application made by the Governor.

ART. 13.—If the discussions in the Assembly should ever become of a seditious nature, the Governor of the *Fu* or *Ken* may provisionally close the Assembly, and shall report the circumstances to the Minister of the Home Department for his decision.

ART. 14.—Under such circumstances, the Minister may, at any time, declare the Assembly dissolved.

ART. 15.—If the Assembly be thus dissolved by the Minister, a new election of members shall take place, in which, those who were members of the dissolved assembly shall not be eligible for reelection for three years to come.

ART. 16.—Bills for discussion in the ordinary or extraordinary meetings of the Council, shall all be prepared by the Governors of *Fu* and *Ken*.

ART. 17.—The sphere of action of the Municipal Council is limited to municipal matters in the *Fu* or *Ken*, and the Council is not to occupy itself with the general administration of the Empire.

ART. 18.—More than half of the number of members must be present to constitute a quorum.

ART. 19.—The municipal budget of the *Fu* or *Ken* shall be discussed and adopted by the Municipal Council, subject to the approval of the Governor. In case of disagreement between the Governor and the Council, the Governor shall lay the case before the Minister of the Home Department and abide by his decision.

ART. 20.—The Governor may bring before the Council any matter concerning the *Fu* or *Ken* and take its sense on the subject.

ART. 21.—An extraordinary session of the Council shall confine its deliberations to the sole object, for which it has been specially summoned.

ART. 22.—If during an ordinary session, one or two members desire to present a petition to the Government on municipal affairs in the *Fu* or *Ken*, they shall obtain permission from the President to make a motion in the Council and if more than half of the members support the motion, the latter shall be considered as embodying the opinion of the Council, and shall be forwarded to the Minister of the Home Department by the President.

ART. 23.—Matters in the Council shall be decided according to majority of votes, and in case of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

ART. 24.—The Governor of the *Fu* or *Ken* or his representative may explain, in the Council, the objects of the bill, but is not entitled to a vote.

ART. 25.—The Governor of the *Fu* or *Ken* shall, at the beginning of the Council's ordinary yearly meeting, lay before it the financial accounts of the *Fu* or *Ken* for the previous year.

ART. 26.—The Rules and Byelaws of the Council shall be framed by the Governor and conducted by the President.

ART. 27.—The sittings of the Council are to be public, but both the Governor and the President shall have power to order them to be held within closed doors.

ART. 28.—It is the President's duty to maintain order in the Council hall and if any one present misbehaves himself, the President shall have power to order him to be removed, and in case of violent conduct, to hand him over to the police.

THE FINANCE NOTIFICATIONS.

THE following important Notifications respecting the Trade Dollar, and revising certain of the Coinage Regulations, were issued in Tôkiô on the 27th inst. :—

NOTIFICATION No. 12 by the *Daijokuwan*.

"It is hereby notified that the Silver Trade Dollars, which have hitherto been coined for the convenience of trade in all the open ports, but which have hitherto only been circulated within the limits of those ports, shall hereafter be free to circulate generally, and may therefore be used in paying taxes and in all business transactions, either public or private."

(signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijôdajin (Prime Minister.)

NOTIFICATION No. 13 by the *Daijokuwan*.

"It is hereby notified that :—Silver Trade Dollars having, by Notification No. 12, been authorized to circulate generally ;—the Coinage Regulations notified in NOTIFICATION No. 108, the 6th month of the 8th year of Meiji (June 1878) have been revised as under. The limit of circulation of the coin is enlarged; the charges for coining, and the limit of bullion received for coinage, are decreased; and the period shortened between receipt of the bullion and delivery of the coin. That is to say, in the Coinage Regulations, the undermentioned changes are made :—in the 5th clause of Notification 108; in the Note to Art. 4 of the Coinage Rules and in Articles 9, 11, and 13 of the same."

(signed) SANJO SANETOSHI,
Daijôdajin (Prime Minister.)

[Revisions mentioned above.]

5th CLAUSE of the Limit of circulation of coin is revised thus:—

"These Trade Dollars may be used in paying the Customs' duties and any other taxes paid by foreigners, and in all business transactions between Japanese and foreigners; also in payment of all taxes in the interior; and in all other payments, public or private, the same shall be legal tender to any amount.

"In NOTE to ARTICLE 4 of the Coinage Regulations (respecting the fixed amount of silver bullion receivable by the Mint for Coinage):—

"For 'silver bullion will be received in quantities of 1,000 ounces' read 'in quantities of 500 ounces.'

"In ARTICLE 9 of the same (respecting the period to elapse between receipt of bullion and delivery of coin:—

"For 'twentieth day' read 'tenth day.'

"In ARTICLE 11 of the same (respecting the charge for coining:—

"For '1½ (one-and-a-half) per cent read 1 (one) per cent.'

"In ARTICLE 13 of the same (respecting the charge for re-coining:—

"For '10 (ten) per thousand'—read '5 (five) per thousand.'

We should hail these Notifications with pleasure, as steps towards the point at which we are anxious to see Japan arrive,—that of issue of coin for the China trade, as well as for her own—were the changes made in favour of the Japanese Silver *yen* of the same weight and fineness as the Mexican Dollar. But as an attempt to bring into circulation as coin the stamped ingots of silver which are called Trade Dollars, of 420 grains weight, we regret their publication. Our hope is as far as ever from fulfilment, and the expectations of the authors of the Notifications will not be attained. The Trade Dollars will continue to pass out of one set of melting pots only to go into another, foreign bullion will not be attracted to the Japanese Mint, the opportunity now offering in China for a successful attack upon the Mexican Dollar will be allowed to slip past unseized; the Mexican Dollar and the tyranny of the shroff will remain excrescences from our trade—or Hongkong will establish a Mint of her own—and then, not only will all hope of a profitable coinage business for Japan in the China trade be lost—but the British Dollar will push out the Mexican and push out the Japanese *yen* too. All the profit hereafter to be made, from subsidiary coinage for use in China will also, in that case, go to the Hongkong establishment, instead of to that at Osaka, and whatever bullion Japan may coin into Trade Dollars for her own use will continue to be drained out of the country as fast as they are produced and quietly sold back to her as bar silver to coin over again. Another outlet for them, which has evidently escaped the Finance Minister's observation, has just been provided in addition to those previously existing, by recent legislation in America. Is there no one in the Financial bureau of this country who can point out to his chief that it will pay foreign bankers to send Japan's trade dollars to the United States' Mints to be coined into the new silver currency just legalized there?

It will be remarked, also, that in these Notifications, no mention is made of gold coin. As the law stands at present, gold is a legal tender to any amount; and now the silver Trade Dollar is given equal currency. The Finance Minister appears bent on committing as many mistakes as he can. He oppresses his country with the evils of bi-metalism, at the same time that he orders the mintage of the wrong description of silver coin.

As matters of practice and fact, and of interest to the foreign trade, of course, these Notifications are valueless, because trade will be carried on as before, with the Mexican Dollar and the paper currency as the *medium* of exchange. Foreigners will certainly not send in bullion to be coined into Trade Dollars; and what little bullion Government has

to coin, gold or silver, will be drained away as before by the Mexican. It is vexatious to friends of the country and well-wishers of her Government, to see an opportunity like this lost, and a wrong course taken, in direct opposition to the advice of experts, to the teaching of experience, and to common-sense. But we abandon the subject in despair, and the only questions relative to it which retain for us a spark of interest are:—'Who are the Finance Minister's advisers? By what arguments have they induced him to the step he has taken? And how will he justify it to his colleagues in the Government when its failure is apparent?' More than ever, perhaps, are now felt the deficiencies of the native press. We find in it as yet neither attack nor defence of the Notifications: the subject appears to be beyond the grasp of native journalists. And regrettable, too, is the unwisdom which killed in its birth what might have grown into a most useful means of education: a combined alien and native journalism. Did newspapers now exist, conducted by foreign and native Editors in partnership, this most important question of the currency might have been fully argued out on both sides and in both languages. The Finance Minister then, with *all* the arguments before him in clear light, could hardly have failed to arrive at a right decision. It would not have been that which we have now to condemn.

WE are enabled to day, by the courtesy of the *Japan Gazette*, to reproduce from that paper the record of Imports and Exports for April, compared with those of March. The former show an increase of close upon half-a-million dollars, Kerosine oil figuring for nearly \$137,000 of that amount, Sugar for nearly \$120,000. Woollen Manufactures have been imported for \$84,000 in excess of the March returns, while Cottons show a decrease of nearly \$108,000. This is entirely owing to the slackening of the excessive supplies of yarns, these having fallen off to the extent of \$243,000 odd, while Grey Shirtings have been brought in,—in excess of the March importation—for \$120,000 against \$74,000, and all other cotton staples more largely imported. \$50,000 worth of Cloth, \$10,000 worth of Blankets, and \$17,000 worth of Mousselines go far to make up the excess in the Woollens market. Metals have contributed to the general increase about \$73,000 and almost every article in the Miscellaneous list shows an increase, swelling altogether to about \$160,000. As, during April and May, trade in this market has been far from brisk, and delivery very slow, stocks of all imports are heavy. Now that the Tea season is fully commenced, however, we may look for some relief, but no great clearances can be expected until native merchants have been put in funds by sales of new silk, six weeks or two months hence. We have reason to believe that the opinion we expressed early in the year—that the distribution of government money attendant on the suppression of the South-western Rebellion had opened new markets for foreign goods, was correct. The large demand for foreign Sugar of course is greatly accounted for by the disarrangement of the Satsuma trade, but the demand for textile fabrics indicates a legitimate and permanent expansion, we think, of foreign business.

The state of the Export trade may almost be predicated without reference to the table: a considerable falling off, inevitable at this season: the returns for May and June will tell another story. Turning to the lists, we find \$124,000 worth less silk exported and the Rice export—to the extent of \$154,000, entirely stopped. This latter article, however, it must be borne in mind, is entirely on Government account. The export of Tea, on the other hand, is increased to the extent of about \$20,000, the clearances of the old season's crop, got off at low prices, and \$65,000 worth of wheat, against \$45,000 worth sent away in March,

helps a little to diminish the fall in exports. But it remains very large—\$281,000.

The total Imports of the two months amounts to \$5,838,654, against Exports valued at \$1,383,439, a difference of nearly three-and-a-half millions. The balance of bullion exported is about \$1,222,000.

When these valuable tables are completed up to the end of June, and we are in possession of some information respecting the prospects of the new silk-crop, we shall more minutely examine them. Meanwhile, the commercial public are much indebted to the *Japan Gazette* for making up the returns, which involves two or three hours' work per day, and we are glad, ourselves, to take the opportunity of thanking the proprietors of that journal for permitting us place them on record thus in the pages of our own Review.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

(Specially translated for the 'Japan Times'.)

CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS IN JAPAN.

By A. WESTPHAL.

LIKE other sciences and arts, the mathematical science was not originally discovered and cultivated in Japan. The Japanese cannot thank themselves for their mathematics; all their knowledge of this subject is due partly to Chinese literature, which either came direct from China or was known through Corea, and partly to European science.

The earliest notice is found in Siebold's *Nippon*, from which I take the following extract: "In the year 553 after Christ, Japan sent the King of Petsi, who had begged for assistance against Kaoli, a present of two ships, two horses, and fifty bows and arrows, and requested in return doctors, diviners, arithmeticians and almanack makers." The wish of Japan, at least as far as mathematics were concerned, does not seem to have been gratified at this time. According to information which I have received from native scholars, it seems that the Chinese system of Mathematics was first known in the Taihō period, that is about 706 A.D. At first their knowledge was very meagre and does not seem to have reached that of the four kinds. Ozuki and Mijoshi are named as the chief scholars of the new science. The young plant however, did not find favourable soil in Japan, for, improbable as it may seem, I have been frequently assured by Japanese mathematicians that in the Keichō period (1596-1615) there was no one in the Empire who had any mathematical knowledge.

Taiko Sama sought to remedy this want by sending one of his subjects, Mori Shigeyoshi to Corea, to study Chinese mathematics. In a short time Mori returned and informed the Shōgun that on account of his low rank, he had not met with a cordial reception. Taiko immediately made him Prince of Dewa and sent him a second time to Corea. He now learned the Chinese system of Mathematics and then returned home; hence he is called by the Japanese the renewer of mathematics. He is also said to have brought the *Soroban* to Japan. He brought also the work "*Sanpō Tōsō*" and "*Sangaku Keimō*," which chiefly contain the Chinese Arithmetic and Algebra and were written by Shusei-kezu, in the time of the Ming dynasty. At this time the Chinese knowledge of mathematics had become somewhat meagre; all the sciences flourished greatly under the Ming dynasty; but through neglect this was followed by a quick decline under that of Sin. Much had fallen into oblivion, and on this account Mori's labours were beset by many difficulties. He succeeded only in teaching his countrymen the four species of mathematics.

His pupils built on this foundation. The most renowned were Yoshida Mitsuyoshi; Takahara Yoshitane, Hirano and Sawaguchi. Yoshida Mitsuyoshi wrote the work "*Jinkōgi*," in which besides the four species he taught how to extract the square and cube roots. Sawaguchi, from the *Sangaku Keimō* above mentioned, taught the use of the *Soroban* or Chinese instrument for reckoning, and also Chinese algebra. This last circumstance, as well as that mentioned of Yoshida Mitsuyoshi viz: that he taught how to extract the square and cube roots, leads us to con-

clude that this Yoshida used only the *Soroban*, or ordinary instrument for calculation, because if he had discovered how to extract the square and cube roots, by means of the *Swan-pan*, he must, as every one who knows the *Swan-pan* will allow, have come to the higher roots.

Towards the end of the 17th century, in the period Genroku (1688-1704) Seki increased considerably the Japanese knowledge of mathematics. This individual is still highly honoured by the Japanese; it is said that when he was a child of 10 years of age, he could understand the most difficult mathematical treatise with ease. With the utmost respect for Mr. Seki's abilities, I doubt, however, whether he would have accomplished so much if European mathematics were not at that time so widely known in China by means of the Jesuits.

Seki was the first to introduce geometry into Japan. But we must not understand by this Euclid's system of geometry; this has been a stranger to the Japanese until very lately. The geometry which Seki introduced dealt solely with the calculation of the contents of geometrical figures. He also taught his countrymen the theory of arithmetic.

After Seki, the following were well-known mathematicians: Araki; Matsunaga; Toyoda; Shiraishi; Yosushima Nawomaru; Kusaka; Wada; Uchida. They occupied themselves in teaching the old Chinese Mathematics, as well as in the study and introduction of the new European system, which they learned by degrees from China, or perhaps from the Dutch.

Toyoda, Prince of Kiushiu and pupil of Matsunaga, wrote a work on geometry; Shiraishi, also a pupil of Matsunaga, published a work on Algebra and Geometry. Kusaka lived in the beginning of this century, and stood in high esteem; Wada and Uchida were both his pupils. The latter, now extremely aged, is an Official in the Education Department, and is at the present moment, occupied in bringing out a work, by order of the Government, on the origin of Japanese numbers.

It is difficult to learn anything of the activity of the mathematicians who lived subsequently to Seki. Most of them did not write works for publication, but taught pupils. These pupils wrote down the lectures of their teachers, and these are said to be still in existence, but it is very difficult to procure them. Judging from the information which I have received from several native scholars, the labours of Japanese mathematicians seem to have been wholly fruitless; they can hardly have seized the scientific spirit or the signification of mathematics: on the contrary they seem to have been satisfied with the solution of minor problems. Thus a young Japanese mathematician, to whom I am indebted for much information, and who knows some European mathematics, is endeavouring to solve the problem of the division of a given angle into three equal parts; and he prefers the practical solution which geometrical figures give, to get the side of the pentagon, to the scientific derivation.

The old Japanese, or rather Chinese, mathematics have now but few friends. Young Japan occupies itself only with European Science, and the old mathematics have fallen into neglect. It may also be interesting to know that mathematical science was always a despised one.

I shall conclude with the titles of some mathematical books which are at present in use in Japan.

- Daigen Jinkōgi*. Arithmetic, by Hasegawa and Akita.
- Sanpō Sakushitsu Ruijin*. Equations, by Shiba.
- Sanpō Sokuyen Shijōkei*. On the Ellipse, by Murata.
- Chijōchi Sanpō Sukei*. Surveying, by Kai and Ono.
- Sanpō Shinagu*. Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry, by Hasegawa.
- Sanpō Kuiseki Toku*. Trigonometry, by Uchida and Hasegawa.
- Kokogen Shijō*. Trigonometry, by Koshino.
- Sanpō Gakkei*. Geometry, by Saka.
- Tengen Shinagu*. Arithmetic and Algebra, by Sato.
- Sanpō Shinsho*. Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry, by Shiba.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Ministers and Councillors of State have, since the murder of Okubo, taken the precaution of having their houses and persons properly guarded by soldiers and police. Last night, on the occasion of the banquet given

by the English Minister to them in honour of Her Majesty's birthday—it was remarked, for instance, that all avenues to the Legation were carefully guarded; the grounds surrounding their private residences are patrolled, day and night, by police, and their carriages and those of the Princes of the Blood are always attended by cavalry escorts, of six troopers for the latter, and four for the former. On the roads between the residences of the Ministers and their offices the police have also been doubled. We trust that these precautions will not speedily be relaxed: the country could ill spare another of her leading statesmen as a sacrifice to that blind prejudice which mistakes itself for patriotism.

FIFTEEN or sixteen arrests have been made in Ishikawa *ken*, whence came the murderers. It is improbable, of course, that they were alone in their design: but it is equally improbable that they were representatives of any important body of malcontents. Two local officers are among the number arrested on suspicion.

Concurrently, we hear of a riot in Yamaguchi *ken*, which appears to have originated, like that reported last week from Kagoshima, in the assemblage of *shizoku* to receive their pensions. In this instance, the Kencho was attacked and troops had to be sent for from Hiroshima to restore order. The practice now adopted by the Government in Kagoshima, of paying these pensions through the headmen of the wards where the pensioners reside will, it is hoped, be made universal, and prevent the occurrence of similar disturbances in future.

A NUMBER of changes in governmental bureaux have been necessitated by the loss of Okubo, besides that mentioned last week. Ito has been relieved of the office he was filling of Director of the Bureau for correction of the draft of the Criminal Law, and Yanagiwara, a member of the Genrōin, has been appointed in his place. Ito has taken charge of the direction of the French Exhibition affairs. General Saigo takes the portfolio of Education. This does not appear to us to be a judicious appointment, in one sense—Saigo being a soldier, and a scientific soldier too, but not prominent otherwise, as a literary man.

As a proof of confidence, however, in the Satsuma clan, the promotion of the General to so important a seat in the cabinet is likely to satisfy the people. A number of other changes are made in lower appointments.

WE NOTICE with much pleasure, that quite animated discussions are going on in some of the leading native journals, respecting both of the subjects which we have been writing on so frequently as, we fear, to have wearied those of our readers who do not happen to be interested in the Japan Trade:—the manufacture of Black Tea, and the product of Silkworms' eggs. In our Native Press columns to-day, we quote an article on each subject; and as it is evident that the writers have read what we have written before; we may profitably make a few remarks now on what they have themselves published.

The gentleman who writes upon Tea, in the 'Nōgiyō Zasshi,' tells us that when studying in Vienna, he was much complimented by his German teacher and by a French gentleman, Director of the Agricultural Bureau, on the flavour of uncoloured Japan Tea, and the former suggested the same means being employed to make it known in Europe as was used by the Dutch to introduce Java coffee, viz:—to give packages of it to all shops where tea was sold, with instructions for its preparation. We are not enthusiastic on the chance of the success of this method, and it is possible also that the proverbial politeness of the Frenchman somewhat influenced the criticism of M. the Director of the Agricultural Bureau; but we certainly think that the delicate flavour of first-class Japan uncoloured Teas would be better appreciated on the Continent than in England. Unfortunately, except in Russia, comparatively little tea is drunk on the Continent of Europe, and England is the great market for the article. There, as we know, Japan uncoloured is not in favour, the taste of the tea-drinker inclining him, or rather her, to stronger, rougher, qualities. The writer in the 'Nōgiyō Zasshi' seems to think that efforts should be made to extend the use of uncoloured Japan Tea in Europe. By all means let the experiment be tried as he suggests, in the tea and coffee houses on the Continent:—this would not cost much,

at any rate—but he appears to us to miss the great point of our own arguments, that Japan has to dread the loss of her only existing market—America—and that by improving the quality of her uncoloured tea she should strengthen her failing grasp upon this, rather than seek new markets, or make costly experiments in Black Tea which we fear can but result in loss. We recommend to this gentleman's special notice an article which appeared in the columns of this Review on April 13th, in which was pointed out the danger menacing the Japan Tea trade with America from the direction of Formosa, and forward a copy of the paper for his perusal.

MR. IWASAKI'S most injudicious circular, or report, which we published last month, has, quite naturally, evoked criticism, in every case adverse, not only here, but in China. And it is natural also to expect, that such an apparently fallacious representation of the state of the Company, followed, first by a subscription of half-a-million to the New Loan, and now by a general increase, all round, of freight and passage charges, will excite more and more suspicion, enquiry, and hostile comment. But we must make some allowance for Japanese methods of doing business and forms of speech. And we must specially guard our own selves, too, against exaggeration in the charges we bring against the Company. Having procured a list of the docking done, for instance, to the Company's fleet, we are free to confess that our own accusation that the Company stinted its *whole* fleet of docking requires modification. The subjoined list is a pretty fair one for the six months.

December 1877	<i>Genkai Maru</i>	at Yokoska.
"	<i>Tokio Maru</i>	" Shanghai.
"	<i>Tumaura Maru</i>	" Kobe.
January 1878	<i>Sakurajima Maru</i>	" do
"	<i>Sekirio Maru</i>	" do
February	<i>Kiinokuni Maru</i>	" Yokoska.
"	<i>Tokai Maru</i>	" Nagasaki.
"	<i>Sumida Maru</i>	" Yokoska
March	<i>Akitsuishima Maru</i>	" do
"	<i>Takachiho Maru</i>	" do
"	<i>Urado Maru</i>	" do
April	<i>Wakunoura Maru</i>	" do
"	<i>Yoshino Maru</i>	" do
"	<i>Kokonoye Maru</i>	" do
"	<i>Shinagawa Maru</i>	" Nagasaki.
May	<i>Tsuruga Maru</i>	" Kobe.
"	<i>Nagoya Maru</i>	" Shanghai.
"	<i>Seirio Maru</i>	" Yokoska.
"	<i>Sumanoura Maru</i>	" Kobe.
"	<i>Suminoye Maru</i>	" Nagasaki.

Of these the *Genkai Maru*, the *Tokio Maru* and the *Nagoya Maru* each received a new suit of copper.

Still, when we remember that the P. & O. Company dock all their ships at least twice a year, and those which, on the Bombay and China line, do not get the advantage of an occasional sojourn in fresh water, thrice:—it must be allowed that, for the iron vessels of the fleet, the docking is not excessive.

A correspondent attacks the Company on other points in a letter which we print in another page.

THE article from the 'Nichi Nichi Shinbun' on Silk eggs, advocating our own views that the production should be limited, encourages us to hope that, though Government has removed all the restrictions and petty taxes on the trade, the arguments of those among the merchants themselves who take similar views to ourselves will prevail, and that the production of silk eggs will be checked instead of stimulated. But here, too, though the writer very correctly argues in favour of limitation, so far as he goes,—he fails to see—or at all events clearly to express, the main points on our side. He says in conclusion, very truly, that "the limitation of production of silkworms' eggs is the best system, as it is *directly* advantageous in maintaining the value of the eggs, and *indirectly* advantageous in improving the production of silk and making the silk business prosperous." But the idea that no writer in the native press has yet apparently grasped is this:—that *silk eggs should not be produced for export at all*; that the trade in them should be abandoned; and that, were this course taken, the immediate and certain increase in value, of 25,000 bales of silk, would far more than overbalance the

loss of the profit got in some years upon the sale of eight hundred or a million cards. Unless the Japanese silk merchants themselves stop the egg export *altogether*, their silk, on the other hand, runs a constant risk of deteriorating in quality and price, their best eggs being picked out by the foreigner tempting them with high prices, and themselves left with the refused cards thrown back upon their home market.

IN the third article which we quote from the Native Press to-day,—‘How a Statesman can best secure his position,’—the writer seeks to win over to advocacy of representative government the statesmen who now conduct the affairs of the nation, by showing, to his own satisfaction at least, that the best dependence of a statesman is on popular favour. The article is extremely interesting and amusing to a foreign reader, and must be still more so to the cultivated native mind,—as showing how the severest press laws may be evaded. Certainly this is done in this instance with the most subtle ingenuity. Minister after Minister rises in the mind’s eye, as the writer enumerates the supports which a statesman should *not* rest upon, and even the Throne does not escape covert rebuke. But the writer’s conclusion—that the best support for a statesman is popular favour—shows a touching ignorance of political history, of even current events abroad. Did not the ‘People’s William’ in England,—the idol of the populace ten years ago—have to escape the other day through a back way from his own house in Carlton Gardens, while the ‘people,’ on whose support he rests, were breaking his windows in front, and howling to get at himself? No worse, no more treacherous, no more uncertain support, than the favour of an uneducated populace. We commend to the writer’s careful study the following excerpt from a book less known than it deserves,—‘Gryll Grange’—

“Mr. MacBorrowdale, who had no objection to lectures before dinner, delivered one on all the affairs of the world—foreign and domestic, moral, political, and literary. In the course of it he touched on Reform. ‘The stone which Lord Michin Malicho—who was the Gracchus of the last Reform, and is the Sisyphus of the present—has been so laboriously pushing up hill, is for the present deposited at the bottom in the Limbo of Vanity. If it should ever surmount the summit and run down on the other side, it will infallibly roll over and annihilate the franchise of the educated classes; for it would not be worth their while to cross the road to exercise it against the rabble preponderance which would then have been created. Thirty years ago, Lord Michin Malicho had several cogent arguments in favour of Reform. One was, that the people were roaring for it, and that therefore they must have it. He has now in its favour the no less cogent argument, that the people do not care about it and that the less it is asked for the greater will be the grace of the boon. On the former occasion the out-of-door logic was irresistible. Burning houses, throwing dead cats and cabbage-stumps into carriages, and other varieties of the same system of didactics, demonstrated the fitness of those who practised them to have representatives in Parliament. So they got their representatives, and many think Parliament would have been better without them. My father was a staunch Reformer. In his neighbourhood in London was the place of assembly of a Knowledge-is-Power Club. The members, at the close of their meetings, collected mending-stones from the road, and broke the windows to the right and left of their line of march. They had a flag on which was inscribed ‘THE POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION.’ Whenever the enlightened assembly met, my father closed his shutters, but, closing within, they did not protect the glass. One morning he picked up, from where it had fallen between the window and the shutter, a very large, and consequently very demonstrative, specimen of dialectical granite. He preserved it carefully, and mounted it on a handsome pedestal, inscribed with ‘THE POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION.’ He placed it on the middle of his library mantelpiece, and the daily contemplation of it cured him of his passion for Reform. During the rest of his life he never talked, as he had used to do, of ‘the people;’ he always said ‘the rabble,’ and delighted in quoting every passage of *Huilius* in which the rabble-roust is treated as he had come to conclude it ought to be. He made this piece of granite the nucleus of many political disquisitions.

tions. It is still in my possession, and I look on it with veneration as my principal tutor, for it had certainly a large share in the elements of my education. If, which does not seem likely, another reform lunacy should arise in my time, I shall take care of close my shutters against THE POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION.”

IN reply to numerous enquiries, we have to state that a new novel by Capt. Brinkley will, we hope, appear in the next volume of our Review. During June, our *feuilleton* will contain a short story from the Chinese, by a member of one of the Foreign Legations at Peking.

We excessively regret that press etiquette forbids our reviewing that just concluded; and to add our voice to the chorus of praise which we hear wherever his work is mentioned. Our readers will have even better reason for their applause when we give them the next product of his graceful pen.

WE are requested to state that—several contributions having been forwarded to Mr. Lishman for the ‘Eurydice Relief Fund,’ since the remittance to its Treasurer was made which is notified in another column, together with the subscription list up to the date of its closure on Monday last—it has been decided to keep open a supplementary List for Yokohama and Yedo, until the sums arrive from the Out-ports which are being there collected. The whole amount will then be remitted together to London, and the subscription list duly advertised as the same time.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or sentiments of Correspondents. No notice can be taken of anonymous letters; whatever is intended for insertion under this heading must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

To the Editor of the *Japan Times*.

[SIR,

The following lines were written in August last, before your journal was in existence, and intended to have been addressed to another paper, in which former letters of mine had appeared; but were not published, as it was hoped the writer might have been in error in previous reflections on the Mitsu Bishi Company. But recent events tend to prove that such reflections were not only justified, but may prove of value to the Company in pointing out disorganization and defects, of which they appear to be in happy ignorance; and I should therefore be glad if you could find space in your columns for their publication now.]

SIR,

In continuation of my remarks upon the Mitsu Bishi Company, I venture to mention some of the data upon which I base my opinion.

An accident which happened to the *Hiroshima-maru*, further exemplifies what I have already stated. This steamer on her last voyage to China, cut in half a large junk laden with oil, just this side of Rock Island, and it was upwards of a quarter of an hour before a boat could be got away from the steamer to the relief of the unfortunate Japanese clinging to the pieces of wreck; during this time the cries of these poor people were most heartrending to those on board the steamer: fortunately it was a calm night, or otherwise the eleven men rescued would assuredly have been drowned. Now I don’t attribute the blame of this delay to the Captain, for he had to remain at his post “forward,” and it was no fault of his that the delay occurred in clearing away a boat, it is only part of the defective organization existing in the Company.

It is all very well to go through a farce of sounding a fire alarm once in a passage, at an opportune moment, which is generally known beforehand by the crew, but in passenger vessels there are other equally necessary precautions to take (as the Mitsu Bishi Company will find to their cost some of these days) such as the life boat station, but to judge from the manner in which the boats of the Mitsu Bishi steamers are secured, it is evident that provision for the expeditious lowering of the boats is not considered of any importance, and simple and effective fittings to meet this object known to every seaman, are either ignored or not understood. Another instance of the prevailing disorganization may be gathered from the fact of the *Tokio maru* passing a lot of wreckage in the neighbourhood of the Goto islands on the

27th of last month, which the officer on watch "did not think worth while reporting to the Captain until some time afterwards." Considering that two large vessels the *Lauderdale* and *Eaglet* were known to be missing at the time, the necessity of watching for any signs of them would have appealed to any but a Mitsu Bishi officer under the present system. I now turn to the case of the officer of the Company who at Kagoshima last month, amused himself by firing at the retreating Satsuma men. Does Mr. Iwasaki think that the tacit approval he has given this transaction will raise him or his service in the estimation of right thinking men, either foreigners or Japanese? As regards foreigners there has been but one voice of condemnation of this act, and I have too high a confidence in the natural instincts of the Japanese character, to believe that it is not the same, with all those whose opinions are worthy of consideration. What right had foreigners to interfere in any manner with the late troubles? It was entirely a Japanese question and those who were actuated by sincere regard for the people of this country, must have looked with regret at the waste of such fine material on either side; the most ardent well wishers of the government could not have helped a feeling of commiseration, for the blind folly of Satsuma necessitating the infliction of such a punishment. But I suppose it will be allowed that the discipline of the Mitsu Bishi must be defective when such a cold-blooded, inhuman, and unjustifiable proceeding is allowed to take place with impunity.

The *Kiushiu* first having gone on to the patent slip in Nagasaki, and subsequently occupied the Pootung dock in Shanghai for some considerable time, it is to be hoped is now sufficiently well repaired from the effects of stranding in the inland sea. It is strange however that this comparatively light draught vessel, with the dock facilities in Japan, should have to undergo all this expense abroad! The *Candia* had her repairs completed at Yokoska, and the Company have had an opportunity of forming an opinion, whether 25 years corrosion on her plating and fastenings, does not far more than neutralise the supposed advantage that the plating of this vessel, originally, was slightly heavier than that of vessels built more recently. This is the only excuse given for purchasing a vessel of the description of the *Candia*, a vessel which when loaded will be unable to enter the Shanghai river except at high water. If thickness of plating is the all-important consideration, I believe that Spain, Peru and Denmark have some fine old thickly plated ironclads which the Mitsu Bishi might utilise perhaps; and besides there is the *Stonewall*, the Kaigunsho would probably gladly dispose of for a moderate sum!

The *Oceanic* was towed from Shanghai to Hongkong by the steamer *Amoy* of about same size as the *Muriel*, for £3,000, about \$15,000. And it does not say much for the condition of the Company's fleet, when a full-powered vessel like the *Muriel* cannot render any service under such circumstances.

The Mitsu Bishi Company appear determined to test the question of demurrage with regard to the *Audacious*, upon what precedent it is difficult to understand; certainly, upon none to be found in the Courts of China or Japan. I have instanced one or two cases in point with the object of saving them from making a greater mess of it than they have done already, and I conclude this letter with a few others.

1.—The *Mona* and *Agamemnon* collision, tried in Singapore in 1868, in which the *Agamemnon* at first claimed \$86,000 including demurrage, and eventually after appeal got about \$22,000.

2.—The recent case in Shanghai of the *Hopeful* and *Annie Grey*, one vessel being actually on her voyage tea laden, and not in the unserviceable condition of the *Chihli*. If the Mitsu Bishi Company are obstinate enough to expect to obtain more than what English vessels can obtain in accordance with their own laws, they will have only themselves to thank if they experience further humiliation. I propose to discuss the question of seamanship involved in a vessel riding by one anchor with long scope of cable in preference to two anchors, and confidently leave to the opinion of those capable of forming one on this subject whether I succeed in establishing that by practical experience the former has proved to be the most advisable course to adopt.

Apologising for taking up so much of your valued space, but pleading that the subject is worthy of discussion.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

19 August, 1877.

NAUTICUS.

"EURYDICE" RELIEF FUND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

NAMES.	AMOUNT.	
	dollars.	cents.
Already Advertised.	501	47
"Secret Service"	10	—
West Country	5	—
H. J. B.	5	—
Lieut. C. W. Baillie, R.N.	10	—
Anonymous	5	—
J. E. G.	2	—
Fred. W. Sutton, Esq., R.N.	10	—
Stephen Judd, Esq., R.N.	5	—
W. J. Cruickshank, Esq.	5	—
J. G.	5	—
Anonymous	5	—
James Dodds, Esq.	5	—
Captain Reeves, P. & O. Company, Steamer <i>Sunda</i>	5	—
Mr. W. Anderson.	5	—
H. Barlow, Esq.	5	—
Captain Blackburne, R.N.	5	—
H. Ireland Blackburne, Esq.	5	—
Lieut. Gladstone, R.N.	5	—
Commander Colin M. Dundas, R.N.	5	—
J. J. K.	15	—
J. P. R.	5	—
Total	\$ 628	47
By Bill of exchange, Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, for £123 1s. 10d. in favour of W. M. Richards, Esq., Cashier H. M. Dockyard, Portsmouth,—		
Treasurer Eurydice Relief Fund.	628	47

Yen converted into dollars at the day's rate of exchange.

JAMES W. LISHMAN,

Paymaster, R.N.

H. M. Naval Yard,
Yokohama, 28th May, 1878.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, May 31, 1878.

WE HAVE, this week, but little mail intelligence to record. The *Sunda*, bringing the English mail of April 12th, arrived on Saturday last. The *Twe*, with the homeward French mail, due in London July 22nd, left on Wednesday. The *Belgie* is advertised to sail for San Francisco on or about the 7th proxo. The *Hiroshima Maru*, for Shanghai and ports, sailed on the 29th. The inward steamer from Shanghai is behind time this week, but is expected to-morrow morning. An outward and inward mail from the Northern ports have arrived and departed.

The news from home, in both public and private telegrams, have been this week far more pacific than for months past: due to Lord Beaconsfield's vigorous policy, displayed immediately on the secession from his Cabinet of the son of his old chief. How many of our readers, we wonder, retain any recollection of the old impetuously driven "Derby Dilly" with its 'six insides,' which furnished so familiar an incentive for our fathers' mirth. And to think that the son of that chivalrous Jehu should have dropped into the position of the 'drag' and finally been discarded as the 'fifth wheel'! The *Celestial Empire*, which has, since it passed into fresh hands, suddenly sprung up into the position of a first-class weekly paper, most happily compares him to Harley, the 'safe' man of Queen Anne's time, and, aptly reversing Tennyson's fine lines:—

'And many a darkness into the light shall leap,

And shine in the sudden making of splendid names.'

draws attention to the as sudden fall in the estimation of their countrymen of both Gladstone and Lord Derby. Ties of gratitude and ancient traditional friendship prevented the Premier from dismissing his Foreign Secretary, but the impulse given to England's step in the march of events has been very markedly shown

since his most welcome retirement. Lord Salisbury's magnificent despatch, breathing in its every line the spirit of an ancient name-sake's

'Come the four corners of the world in arms,
And we will shock them. Nought can make us rue,
If England to herself do but prove true.'

has completely changed the complexion of affairs in Europe. The utter imbecility of Prince Gortschakoff's reply indicates complete collapse of the Russian aggression:—the last card appears to have been played in her game of 'brag,' the Treaty of San Stefano must be torn up, and England's interest will be assured, and her position asserted in Europe, apparently without the cost of war.

Our little friend the *Choya Shimbun*, by the way, who may thank its suspension for escaping severer handling from us, receives a very sufficient reply to its call to England's subjects in India to revolt, by the news to hand by last mail of the enthusiastic rush to the standards of our Indian soldiery when the call to arms was heard. In a fortnight, a complete division, perfectly equipped, of all branches of the service, was despatched from Bombay, and throughout the country, the only murmur that is heard is from the multitude who have not been so lucky as to be chosen for service. We fully believe that the precipitate change of front just made by Russia is due, in no small measure, to the movement of this minute contingent of our enormous Indian reserves. Lord Beaconsfield is one of those great statesmen who dare to give expression to original ideas: and, though carped at and ridiculed at the time, Englishmen now see the value of his Proclamation of Delhi, announcing the Queen's ascension of the ancient Imperial Throne, and of the Progress of the Heir Apparent through the Empire. Small the danger which has now to be feared from Russian intrigue by the English *raj*, for at least the next generation.

But here we are again, most improperly in so cosmopolitan a community, expressing our views on great European questions, when we should be 'babbling of green fields'—anticipating cricket matches, recording lawn-tennis handicaps, and savouring strawberries and cream!

We are glad to see active training going on for the Regatta of the 8th of June; and with so many men-of-war in harbour, a good many well-contested cutter and gig races, and also a number of interesting sailing matches may be looked for. We must pray for better weather than this while we write: but the Sou'-west monsoon has apparently come up higher than usual this year, and a wet summer is predicted by our meteorologists. The competitors in a race of another sort and of greater interest are just starting from China to London, by the way: the steam tea-clippers. The three favourites are the *Glenaeagles*, the *Loudoun Castle*, and the *Ocean King*. The *Glenartney* and *Hankow* are also competitors, but not so much fancied. The *Glenaeagles* last year disappointed her backers, but her bearings, the heating of which threw her out of the last race, have all been replaced, and her party is very confident. The *Ocean King* has been built specially to win this year's contest, and her 'preliminary canter' out,—from Greenock to Woosung,—having been done in the fine time of 37d. 19h. 10 min. and 48 sec., she will take a good deal of beating. The *Glenaeagles* has got away first, we see; passing Woosung buoy at 11.10 a.m. on the 25th. The *Loudoun Castle* was to follow in twenty-four to thirty hours. It is a common defence to set up for horse-racing, that it tends to improve the breed of horses; but certainly tea-racing improves the build of ships!

Pilgrimage's performance, winning both the One and Two Thousand Guineas, is very remarkable, till we hear what sort of cattle she had to run against. Who will win the Derby, we wonder, next week? *Apropos*, we try to lighten a rather heavy number this week, full of finance, mathematics, commercial tables, and Japanese municipal matters, by a clever sketch of our great English holiday, from the Victor Hugo point of view; which will be found below.

Our own municipal misery occupied the attention of a sort of international secret 'caucus' last Wednesday afternoon; but as we were not honoured by an invitation to assist at the conference, we can only tell our readers that a scheme was drafted, which will, in due time, be submitted to the Consular Board, and thereafter, we presume, to the ordeal of a public meeting. We wish its concoctors all the success they deserve. Another impudent robbery has again demonstrated the impotence of the existing police as guardians of our property, and rumours of cholera are just beginning to be heard, to expose the deficiency of our drainage and sanitary systems; while pitch-dark streets, and road materials pitched down anywhere as man-traps for us to pitch over, excite us to 'pitch into' the existing incapables, and as urgently stimulate us to cry:—'Reform, Reform!'

Quite a multitude of Notes' are on our file, of which we must make short work. An odd ceremony in honour of the silkworm, or propitiation of Fortuna for the coming season, was to be witnessed last Wednesday at the Daijin-gu temple on Isayama hill. An altar was set up, the usual offerings made, and a *gratis* theatrical performance and exhibition of fireworks given, to the great entertainment of a large crowd, and let us hope, to the improvement of the prospects of the new crop. To-morrow a cricket match will be played, weather permitting, (which now, 1.45 a.m., doesn't seem to be in the least likely) between two elevens, representing respectively the Club and the Fleet. Admiral Patterson U.S.N. and staff arrived on the 29th inst. in the *Monacacy*. From China comes still the same terrible tale of famine in the North; the details are becoming so sickening and the state of the country is so utterly hopeless that we refrain from quotation or comment. From Hongkong, Englishmen are glad to hear of the harbour and town being put into a perfect state of defence, and, *pace* the *Japan Herald*, the Governor is showing himself quite the 'right man in the right place.' We have not yet heard of the *Shannon's* arrival at Hongkong, but she was at Penang on the 4th inst. and cannot be far off, to be immediately followed by other accessions to the China fleet. Silk and tea merchants have nothing to fear from Russian cruisers in these waters in the now happily, improbable event of war.

Old China residents will be glad to hear that Archdeacon Grey late of Canton, has been honoured by Cambridge with the degree of L. L. D. His long talked-of book on China is just coming out. General Le Gendre, by the way, has in the press, we hear, a book on Japan, which is to appear in August. We look forward, with pleasurable anticipation, to the opportunity of reviewing it.

How short is our Japanese spring! Hardly have we time to enjoy the delicate, tender shades of various greenery, before all the foliage rushes out in full summer livery. And so in the fields, too! The barley and bearded wheat are ready for the sickle, rice is almost all set out, and the rape has long lost its bloom. We miss the hayfields of our fair English June, though, and even the fragrance of the new-fired tea hardly equals, though we thank it for re-calling to our sense, a perfume with which are associated so many of our happiest recollections of childhood and of home. It is not in Japan that we can sing:—

'The bloom of hawthorn's past and over,
But fragrant is the purple clover,
And June is joyous to the lover

By night and day.
And bees are drinking honey-wine
From scented cups of eglantine—
And mortals think the weather fine
For making hay.

'The wandering poet takes his tithe
Of music from the sweeping scythe,
Of merry maidens laughing blithe

In love's sweet way:
He mirrors in his magic glass
The meadows wide, the fallen grass,
And thus it clearly comes to pass—
He's making hay.

'O make your hay while shines the sun!
For soon the fragrant days are done,
And eyes and lips of love and fun

Glide swift away:
So if you're in a state of "spoons,"
Just take this jolliest of Junes,
And give its indolent afternoons
To making hay.

'White lilies sleep on th' upper Thames,
The chestnuts shed their diadems,
The sultry summer's rarest gems

This month will stay;
Sweet sings the thrush; the cooing dove
Is heard in woodlands far above:
Ah! what's more sweet than making love
And making hay?'

[We cannot afford a special wire to bring us an account of next Wednesday's Carnival on Epsom Downs; but in our commonplace book we find a description of one by a French gentleman visiting London which our readers may perhaps find amusing.]

REALITIES OF THE DERBY.

By A FRENCH VISITOR.

I. SELTERS-WATERS OR B. AND S.?

After Light, Shadow; after Pleasure, Pain; and both inevitable oscillations of the pendulum of life!

Alas, to wake—it is to remember, and to remember is to repent.

Last night, I banqueted with the merchant-princes of London and with the ancient nobility of Wales; the leaders of the Fashion

World, the Sport, the Turf, the boxers of the most renowned, the comics of the musical saloons—Lord Ouiggins signalled them all to me. Foaming, sparkling, vivacious, the wines of Champagne led the way for the stronger Grogs. A vision, confused indeed, but magnificent in its confusion, will long recall to me the night before the Derby.

I awoke.

Sad and supreme moment of mortality, when awakening means isolation!

For some time, I knew not where I found myself. Presently, as the dim light of the dawn penetrated, first through the folds of the fog, and next through the dirt of the windows, I recollected that Lord Ouiggins had advised me to stay with him at a fashionable hotel, adding that his own drag would call for us in the morning. Ah, there is still remaining, then, a little of the true old Britannic hospitality! Democrat myself, let me not be unjust to the noblesse.

It was still of a good hour. I turned myself to sleep; but heard, with dreamy ears, the fall—or so it seemed—of cataracts of rain, around me, beside me, overhead. The sound gave me a strange sensation of thirst, which I cannot otherwise explain.

Instinctively, I rang the bell, and shouted "Selters! Selters! Selters!"

A tap at my door; and Lord Ouilliam, in half-toilette, appeared. I saluted him.

"Is it that the rain will make to be deferred the Courses?"

"What rain?"

"Listen, then!"

"That? why, it's only the men tubbing!" (idiom untranslatable.)

"What did you ring for?" pursued Lord Ouilliam.

"But, for Selters then!"

"Tout droit," he rejoined. "*Vous étiez horriblement coupé, mon ami; bien roide!*"

Strange and picturesque argot of intoxication: "awfully cut," "very tight."

"Listen," continued Milord. "my carriage is not yet arrived. It has probably been stopped by the Thames Embankment, which is to run outside my park at Ouapping. Look you, I will take places for two, outside an omnibus. It is the usual plan amongst the nobility. Admiral Rous will be one of us. You may easily know him by his wearing a white hat, a veil, a flower in his button-hole. Meanwhile, better not have Selters. Try B and S?"

Enigma, of which the solution—when it came—was far from disagreeable.

II. LUX.

The morning at first was dull and brumous. The *spleen* of Britannia seemed to possess me. I had atrocious pains in my head. Every noise bore upon my nerves. The very sight of food seemed to nauseate me.

Lord Ouiggins, on the contrary, made a breakfast of the most substantial.

I cannot say much in favour of the cuisine at this fashionable hotel, one of the first in London, the well-known "Spotted Dog" in the aristocratic quarter, Route de la Chapelle Blanche (White-Chapel-road), the Faubourg St. Germain of London. Strange: the hotel is not mentioned in any of the ordinary London Guides.

Ray by ray, sunbeam by sunbeam, the morning advanced. As the herrings of Yarmouth vanished from the table, the sunlight pierced. Light! For the captive in the dungeon, for the sailor on the deck, for the noble *sportmans* on the omnibus, Light equal, impartial, beneficent! To the *trainer* in his stall, to the outcasts sleeping on the Downs, to the patrician in his lonely *tub*, the Light appeared, the promise, the herald, the messenger of Joy.

For once, the social distinctions, hard as iron, of the Old England break down; for once the Noble Lord rides on the *knife-board* with the proletarian. The baronet salutes the butcher. Deep calleth unto deep. Sublime Democracy of Sport, victorious Equality of the betting-ring.

We take our places. The best seat is reserved for the Admiral—that famous old warrior, who turned the fortune of the day at Chillianwallah by his historical charge at the head of the Naval Reserve and the Royal Horse Marines. Combination eccentric, but not without precedent. The horse was sacred to Neptune. This Rous, see you, this Admiral so passionately equine in his tastes, he is Jean Bart and he is also Murat; he is Kellermann and he is also La Pérouse! All the great men touch, and recognise one another!

The light still brightens. Behold us then effectively departed!

Hoorrah! Hep, hep, hep!

Vive Ventre-Tambour!

III. NOTHING IS CERTAIN TO HAPPEN BUT THAT WHICH IS UNFORESEEN.

We have gone a few miles on our road, still through the streets of the fashionable quarter, to-day as democratic as the Faubourg St. Antoine, and crowded with other Derbyites, before we speak

much to each other. Reserve characteristic of the oldest and proudest aristocracy on earth.

At length Lord Ouiggins whispers me—

"I knew I had forgotten *something*. I've left my purse on the piano!"

For the moment I wished that I had done the same.

Suspicion dishonouring and ignoble!

IV. SI JEUNESSE SAVALT.

Fog, obscurity, cold—yes, you will find them all in the climate of Great Britain; in England, in Scotland, in Ireland, and in the mountains of Wales, the cradle of Lord Ouilliam! It is true. But it is not the only verity. Great Britain also has her moments of fine weather. There are no such trees in the world as the tall poplars of my own, my beautiful France—none planted in such mathematical, such symmetrical order, so methodical, and straight. Nevertheless, Nature is infinite. Even the chestnuts, hawthorns, lilacs, and laburnums of the Surrey lanes are not absolutely offensive to the eye. To-day, also, Phœbus pierces. *Lux!*

There are no women in the world like those of Paris; but there is still a present freshness in the faces of the young pensionaries who watch us, at times, over garden walls. To several of these, I kiss my hand. They smile, in reply. Laugh, rosy daughters of Albion, laugh; for it is still day, and you are young—too young for reverie. The hour will come, perchance, when pensive and full of a vague desire for wider sympathies, for nobler aspirations, for keener emotions, tired of the school, tired of the domesticity, tired of the compliments—trivial, pale, and faded—of the phlegmatic young Milords, you will return in fancy, chaste but mournful, to the child of France who saluted you to-day. You will sigh, but you will sigh in vain. "Our hearts are not our own to give." Ballad by the poet Tupper. Oh Finette, my little kitten! . . .

V. WHEN POVERTY BECOMES IRONICAL, LET WEALTH TAKE CARE.

The old Britannic *humour*, as exhibited in Samuel Benjamin Johnson, in Jonathan Smith, and Dean Sydney Swift is not absolutely extinct upon the road.

More than one little Arab of the highway shouts out to me, "I'll have your hat!" Wild caprice of the imagination, playfully misrepresenting the probable eventualities of the future, and yet, at bottom, profound, almost terrible—a mockery, yes, but a menace—a jest, without doubt, but a threat also—the voice, grotesque but strident, of the *Miserables*. Reflect. To-day they only laugh at Property; to-morrow, they may insist on sharing it.

I impart these reflections to Lord Ouiggins. Alas, to what good? The pride of his class is too strong for him. His natural instincts are noble; but he is spoiled by the mephitic atmosphere of the Upper Chamber. With a laugh cold, sardonic, and glacial, he replies—words of ineffaceable significance, typifying the gulf between the Nobles and the Poor—

"Throw the little beggar a copper, and let him go!"

He does not even, generous though he is, offer to provide the copper.

Again ignoble suspicion! I forget that he has left his purse on the piano!

The Arab—delirious with joy—saved, perhaps, from starvation by the casual bounty of a foreign *sportmans*, would fain express his thanks. His emotion overpowers him. He staggers; horror, he falls! No! again! Gallant child of Poverty, the struggle is vain. Once more he wavers, he oscillates, he falls, and turning wildly head over heels, in the convulsion of his death agony, he disappears in a cloud of dust—doubtless to be driven over by the omnibuses of the haughty and the phaetons of the Stock Exchange!

Shocked, but masking my horror under the veil of a politeness a little cynical, I say to Lord Ouiggins.

"And well, then, Milord, did you see what he did? and do you know what will be his fate?"

Question terrible!

He does not even remove the cigar from his mouth, this impassive patrician, as he answers, with a laconism which lacerates, which vibrates on my nerves, which almost makes me bound, "*Yes; cart-wheel!*"

VI. LONDON AT EPSOM.

Dust, heat, emotion—all stimulate thirst.

I soon forget the little Arab. There are plenty of others remaining. There are worse things in the world, too, than bottled stout. Lord Ouilliam tells me that none of the aristocracy now drink champagne in public. It excites a feeling of envy among the lower orders. On Derby's Day, the populace gives the tone to the peerage. Most of the Marquises on our omnibus drink beer, and several of them have brought pies, made from the celebrated hunters of Melton Mowbray—hippophagy expensive, but characteristic of Britannic humour. The Admiral is a humourist of the most

extravagant. He has only brought a little gin and water in a bottle, and some ham sand wiches in a copy of the "Saturday Review." It is this readiness to accept the popular customs which had made him the idol of the crowd.

The crowd; my faith, and what a crowd! There are two things in the world which a man never forgets: his first sight of the sea and his first sight of the multitude on Epsom Downs!

There is another thing which some men never forget! I know I never shall; it is the first voyage over the Sleeve!

What a sound, as of ocean! What infinite discords, subdued, by very force of number and of contradiction, into one sublime monotone! What minstrelsy, cosmopolitan and comprehensive—the audible expression of a Colonial System unparalleled in grandeur and extent! The Hindoo may think in his heart of the days when he fought for his country's municipal freedom under the banner of Rammohan Roy and Nana Sahib; but look! Plaintively submissive, he strikes his *tom-tom* to amuse the destroyers of his race. And yonder—Africans—swarthy descendants of Jugurtha, they forgive the atrocities of Governor Wilberforce as they dance around to the merry strains of the banjo and the tambourine!

VII. MESSIEURS, FAITES VOTRE JEU! LE JEU EST FAIT!

"Would you like to see the horses a little nearer?" says Lord Ouiggins. "You had better buy a couple of tickets for the padwick." I do so. The Padwick—so called after an eminent British sportsman—is an enclosed space in which the true connoisseurs survey the horses before they start. As I gaze at *Ventre-Tambour*, I can hardly refrain from shouting, amongst all these impassible patricians, "Hourrah! Hep, hep hep!"

Lord Ouiggins comes to me, hurriedly and whispers. "Hush, I have just got the straight tip from the Admiral himself. It's a moral; and the horse at twenty-five to one! We must get on every sou we have. There is barely time before they start. Quick." I hand him my purse—not without a moment of hesitation—of which I am speedily ashamed.

VIII. RIEN NE VA PLUS.

A minute sometimes seems like hours. Fortune was in my grasp. The interval of suspense was horrible; and yet its termination, when it *did* come, seemed abrupt, sudden, incredible.

I was still struggling with the crowd, when a hoarse sound suddenly rose like the roar of a tempest on a rocky coast—it rose, and rose, and grew stronger; I looked; I saw a wonderful white flash of faces as the multitude turned all, in one instant, one way; and my pulses seemed as though they would kill me with their throbbing as, with one voice, that innumerable assemblage cried—
"THEY'RE OFF!"

IX. THE WORD OF THE ENIGMA.

They were indeed; and so was Lord Ouiggins of Onapping!

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE SILK EGG TRADE.

(From the 'Nichi Nichi Shimbun'.)

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, an article entitled; "There should not be a limit put to the production of Silkworms' eggs," in which I observe that he argues that "to limit the production of silkworms is simply for the purpose of profiting producers." This surprises me. What is meant by "the profits of the producer?" Considered from a view of the whole argument, it would appear that he means to say, that the decrease in value in silkworms' eggs is owing to their quality being bad, and that if the production were limited, it would only result in profiting inexperienced producers. But I consider that unless the production be limited to a proper amount, it is impossible to maintain profit, and that, however, good the quality of silkworms produced, if the supply exceed the demand for home and foreign use, and is left unsold, we cannot but allow the excess to putrify wastefully. How could I possibly agree to this being unharmed to the profit of the country? My decided opinion is that excess of production is the cause of loss, and that limitation is not a system which only profits a few producers, but is the best system for protecting the general profit of producers throughout the country.

My opponent says:—"Whatever limit may be put to the quantity of production, unless unskilful producers can be made skilful and inexperienced made experienced, it is beyond hope that all the silkworms should be of equal quality"—as the quality of the silkworms is of course different, limitation is not for the purposes of equalizing the

different qualities of eggs, but it is simply for increasing the value of those of good quality more and more, and for maintaining the value of even those inferior. He also says that "although silkworm's eggs of the best quality would of course be sold at once, even those of bad quality would, although not admired, as there would be no better quality to be got, have to be bought by native and foreign merchants, &c., &c." From this it would appear that he means to say that producers of the bad quality would, as they obtain profit, become careless in their production and produce a worse and worse quality, and it is rather better that they should sustain loss and ruin themselves—but I consider that an improvement in quality is produced from getting profits, and if they have to throw the eggs into the fire or water again this year, the producing business would be crushed and it would become impossible to obtain even the good quality.—If fortunately, as he says, the best quality were sold at once and even the bad quality were bought, this being a step towards the improvement of the quality and the origin of the country's profit, he should take the side of limitation.

He thinks that "the limitation system only ends in giving a profit to a few producers and all the others throughout the country have to sustain great loss." This again greatly surprises me. Although, as he plainly says, unless a good seed be sown, good product can not be obtained, (this being a natural and acknowledged fact) and a bad quality of eggs must cause great loss to the silk manufacturers: if the silkworm eggs lose their value for successive years, who would pay attention to the production and endeavour to produce good quality? The quality would thus become worse and worse and finally the production would cease. Again, to say "when we consider 1,000,000 cards a sufficient and suitable quantity, we produce 1,500,000 cards and employ the best quality picked out from among them, we shall be able to obtain the best worms for the country;" this is an opinion which may be formed, but it is impossible to put it in practice. Did he not say that "silkworm eggs of the best quality would of course be sold at once." Should it be really so, the eggs of good quality would all be bought by foreigners, and the bad quality would remain in excess, and the native silk manufacturers, being unable to obtain worms of good quality, would be obliged to use bad worms, and thus the quality of our silk would, as he regrets, become worse and worse. Whereas, on the contrary, if the limiting system were adopted, it would enable the egg producers to obtain a profit, stimulate them to improvement, and by making a distinction between the home and foreign use, would protect the excess export of good eggs.

Again, this writer says:—"If the system of limitation were adopted, and 1,500,000 cards were manufactured, of which 1,000,000 be taken for the requirements of the country, then, if at this time, foreigners should require to buy 1,000,000 cards at once, the requirements of the country would suffer." I consider that the silkworms' eggs going out excessively to the foreign countries and home requirements suffering, is the result of free production, rather than of limitation, because, in order to establish the limitation system, we must duly consider the advantages of the business and the amount of the home and foreign requirements, and then put a limit at a proper and suitable amount, strictly distinguishing those for home use from those for foreign exports. Then there would be no fear which we need entertain as regards the amount of exports being excessive and home requirements suffering; but it is not so in the free production. If egg producers consider the egg producing business unprofitable, they may either decrease the amount or cease production, and if, at this time, foreigners should require a large amount of silkworms' eggs, our merchants would, only looking to the high price, sell them to the foreign merchants, and thus the requirements of the country would suffer greatly. He further says that: "If it happens that the egg growers, after having grown a great quantity of silk eggs, unfortunately meet with the loss of throwing them into the water or fire, it is only a temporary injury, &c., &c." but I believe that, this loss would decrease their courage and check their emulating each other for improvement, which he so warmly wishes for, and he the cause of producing bad silk, and thus run a great risk of losing the good reputation and value of our country's chief staple. Consider that silk eggs are the origin of silk, and how could the silk possibly be good, if the egg growing business declines? He again says that "the system of limitation is

"far beyond the province of Governmental interference and "is rather near to oppression, &c., &c." This surprises me and I doubt its correctness. If the members of the silkworms' egg business Association, publicly appointed by the egg producers of the whole country, should approve limitation, would he still take it as interference or oppression?

I firmly believe that the views of the members of the S.E. Association are the views of all the egg producers of the country, and that what has been decided by them is indeed what is best for the whole trade, and is an impartial, just, and good system.

I consider that the limitation of production of silkworms' eggs is the best system, as it is *directly* advantageous in maintaining the value of the eggs, and *indirectly* advantageous in improving the production of silk and making the silk business prosperous.

TEA.

From 'The Nôgiyô Zasshi,' (an Agricultural Review.)

IN THE preparation of tea, there are three great distinctions made, *i.e.* Black, Green and Uncoloured teas. The uncoloured tea is prepared generally all over our country and the black and green are mostly prepared in China, and India. Now, considering in which countries in Europe and America these teas are employed, and as to which of these kinds are used, we find black and green teas mostly liked and employed in all the countries of Europe, whilst the uncoloured is only liked by the Americans and, even in America, in some States it is not so much liked as in the others. For instance, if we take a steamer and sail eastward from Yokohama harbour, we reach the port of San Francisco (or the western part of America), and find that the natives there use our uncoloured tea for daily drink, and thus it is their custom that, when a guest makes a call, they, without asking him what kind of tea he likes to take, offer him uncoloured tea. But in New York &c. (or the eastern part of the continent) the natives, when receiving a guest, always ask him first whether he likes uncoloured or black tea, and then offer what he prefers. Now if starting from this place and sailing again eastward across the Atlantic ocean, we reach London, the capital of England, and put up in a hotel and there order tea, what they instantly bring is nothing but black tea. This is merely owing to our uncoloured tea not yet being employed in Europe. The writer, during his stay in Austria, used occasionally to present his European teacher with the best Japanese tea, and he, appreciating its taste very much, invited, one day, a gentleman who was the Director of the Agricultural Bureau of France and offered him the tea to try; this gentleman equally appreciated the taste very much, and said that a tea of such flavour could not be obtained, though he were to search for it all through Paris. Further that he thought if Frenchmen tasted this tea, their admiration and demand for it would be much more than those for the black tea which they had hitherto been accustomed to. My teacher afterwards said that "the fact that, although such a good tea is produced in Japan, it is not used in Europe, is owing to the custom being to drink black tea only and that even of tea merchants, but a very few of them know of it, and further, as this uncoloured tea is not being introduced into Europe, some measures should be taken in order to let Europeans appreciate and use it. And as he knew of a means by which the Japanese tea might come to be employed in Europe, he would tell me." He went on to say that "in ancient times, in Java, a Dutch territory, although a very good and cheap coffee was abundantly produced, as there was no demand for it from Europe, as being somewhat different to that produced in Arabia, the Government of the former, regretting this, adopted a curious means—which was that it appointed agents in all the thriving cities and towns of Europe and let them supply a pound of the coffee to all the shops where coffee was sold and the drinking houses where coffee was prepared and sold, with information as to its price. Then the demands for the Dutch coffee increased at once in all parts and all the coffee used in Europe came to be sent from the Dutch territory, and indeed it has now become so great that it would not be too much to say that that country has taken up the whole ground of the coffee trade in Europe." Now no means to introduce into Europe a taste for Japanese tea, which has so good a flavour,—could be better than this.

The preparation of tea in our country having been, so long, actually practised, there are many in the country who are well acquainted with the mode of preparation, and apprecia-

tion of our tea should not be limited to Americans only. As mentioned above, if we endeavour to improve the mode of preparation of our own tea and adapt the means as suggested by my European friend, in order to extend its use throughout Europe, this would not be a difficult matter; without striving to establish the system of preparing black tea which is so new to us, and which must come into competition with that of China and India. What we should rather aim at is to export a great quantity of our uncoloured tea to the continent of Europe. But it would appear that, until after we have determined clearly the question whether it is more profitable, to make black tea with our tea leaves, or to strive to introduce them into Europe as uncoloured tea, we cannot conclude whether striving to prepare the black tea is profitable or not. Reading over an article which appeared in the foreign paper *Japan Times* published on the 23rd March, arguing the question of profits of our preparing black tea—we find there several points in which we agree with the writer's opinion; and also some at which we cannot but be depressed. We therefore briefly translate the main points of the article and ask the opinion of the public thereon;—(Here follow translations of Editorial Notes on Black Tea making in Japan from p.p. 240, 241 of the *Japan Times*.)

From what the Editor of the *Times* argues, black tea making is very unfit for this country; and as those who prepare tea largely in our country have for 2 or 3 years been out of profit and indeed some of them are ruined on account of the tea-plantation, it may be possible that they, on consideration of the past, may conclude that they cannot expect any profit either by making their tea into blacks or preparing them as hitherto. But the tea is not an unprofitable business, for instance, look at the yearly increase of its use in all countries of Europe, and the increase of its use in America. The fact that, although the use of either black or uncoloured tea is not at all decreased, yet our countrymen are unable to gain profit from the preparation of tea, seems to have, as the editor of the *Times* says, originated from our merchants' having lost their credit, and also there having been some who, at the time when there was a sudden fall in price of the tea, became careless in its preparation. Should we not, in the present time, not only restore the trade from this decaying state, but make it more and more a great production of the country? Now leaving the question of the preparation here, we will give a plan of the machine used for preparing tea by Englishmen in the tea districts of India. Its shape is as under-shown and it is said to prepare 25 maunds in a day, and a maund being equal to our 80 kin, 25 maunds is equal to our 240 Kwamme. The quantity prepared with one machine in a day is as great as this—and therefore that Englishmen who are preparing tea in the districts of India should be gaining great power over the European tea trade, is not a remarkable matter. But this tea-preparing machine is now already in our Government Department of Industry under the charge of Mr. Ishikawa Masatatsu, who is actually employing it. Is not this fortunate for us? This machine is very advantageous for preparing either black, green or uncoloured teas, and the tea prepared by means of this machine is also very good. Now it is our earnest wish that we should in a great measure make machines in imitation of this, employ them widely, increase our tea-production, obtain better and better reputation therefore, and induce our teas to be widely employed in both America and Europe. What have the tea-growers of our country, to say to this?

(Here follows the plan of the machine).

HOW A STATESMAN CAN BEST SECURE HIS POSITION.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

FROM old time until now, there seem to have been always five methods by which a statesman can assure the permanency of his power:—(1) produce upon popular favour; (2) on military force; (3) upon his Sovereign; (4) upon the Princes of the Blood; (5) upon the Sovereign's mother or female favourites. These means of support are all uncertain in their value, and the permanency of a statesman's power is more or less insecure as he leans on one or the other. A first sight of a man, observant of the signs of the times, is he who is the strongest, and thereby secures himself a man not filled with such powers of observation and discernment, attaches himself to a party or a person, without observing how fitted is his power, and therefore falls. Thus it is evident that the se-

curity of a statesman's power depends entirely upon the means he selects for his support.

What is dependence upon popular favour? This is the reliance, by a man whose whole heart and soul are devoted to the protection and advancement of his countrymen, and whose bravery or talents gain their esteem,—upon the good will of the people, who, in their turn depend and rely upon him. No matter whether he be in office or in retirement, the people look to him in any time of change or danger to the State. A statesman thus supported by public opinion is most powerful, and even when he retires from office, yet his influence remains; and thus enjoying power, is in security himself and his family is established. As, however, a statesman will not receive this sort of support unless he be upright, honourable and intelligent—all men engaged in public affairs should strive to obtain it.

For all other means of support are bad. What is dependence upon military force? This is the support given to a man who retains his position by favour of the soldiers and officers under his control, and who would sacrifice their lives to retain his position; or it is the state of a man who holds a high office in the central Government of his country by virtue of the military power of a single *ken* or *han*, which is under his control. Supported thus by a great and powerful force, the influence of such a statesman must needs be great;—but, in the event of this force being disbanded, his power and influence would immediately sink to nothing, and himself into insignificance. Such power is evidently not permanent. Then, what is the value of 'dependence on the Sovereign'? This is the support of a man who has luckily gained the confidence of an intelligent monarch, who approves what he says and contrives, and trusts implicitly to him; or who gains the favour of an unintelligent, young monarch, by providing for him pleasures of luxury and sensuality. But intelligent monarchs do not always exist, and the favour of an unintelligent sovereign is difficult to keep, and such a master is always ready to believe slander. This, therefore, cannot be regarded as permanent support, and a statesman who depends on his sovereign's favour is surely insecure. What then, can we say of 'dependence on the Princes of the Blood'? When a monarch is young or incapable, and there is no great Minister to control the State, government is sure to lapse into the hands of the near relatives of the crown, and some statesmen try to attach themselves to these, and so rule through them. In the same way, the male or female attendants of a weak prince often acquire great influence with him, and govern the people thus indirectly—to their own great profit and increase of wealth and dignity. But a statesman who should join himself to such, or to Princes of the Blood, cannot but fail.

But a statesman must have something to depend upon, some power to support him. We have shown the folly of depending on military force, the favour of the sovereign, influence of the royal family, and palace intrigue. What support then should a statesman seek. Clearly the support and favour of the people. And then comes the question: How is such support to be got? We reply: the only means is the establishment of a National Parliament. If the great power of framing laws were entrusted to the people, and to statesmen and Ministers were reserved only the duty of carrying out the people's wishes—the executive power, then a statesman might obtain the people's support. And though this may, at first sight, appear to be cutting off half a Minister's power and to be giving it to the people, thus diminishing his influence; this is not so. His position would be made so much more permanent and secure by the support of the people, that it would redound much to his advantage.

The above argument is mainly devoted to the consideration how Ministers may retain their power, but it involves also the best means to secure the safety of the country.

EXTRACT.

NOTES ON JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE.*

By JOSIAH CONDER.

(Concluded from our last.)

The temples of Japan are by far the most interesting and instructive buildings to be found in the country; set in the solemn shady quiet of their thick groves, approached by their avenues of

lamps both stone and bronze; with the grand sweeping lines of the roofs projecting boldly forward, upheld by a profusion of brackets; wooden carving tastefully disposed, sharply and beautifully cut, and the whole woodwork often decorated in well harmonised colours with gilding and bronze ornaments. The principal temples are to be found in Nikko, Kioto, and Tokio (or Yedo.) The two principal groups of temples in Yedo are at Ueyeno and at Shiba, and at both these places the large central temple has been destroyed by fire. The subsidiary temples, however, are so numerous and imposing, that these sites still rank first in importance in the city as temple groups.

The temples at Shiba are enclosed on three sides by a long wall with several gateways at intervals, and backed by a thick wood of fine old trees. The streets surrounding the walled sides consist of a continuous avenue of pine trees, interrupted only by one large and two small gateways forming the approach to the sacred grounds. The principal entrance is a large and imposing wooden structure some 70 feet wide and of about the same height. It is built upon heavy wooden pillars arranged so as to form one principal opening and two side ones; these wooden posts are tied together by horizontal beams tenoned to the posts, the sides of the entrances being filled in between this framework with panels of wood. Halfway up, above the soffit of the entrance, which is formed of heavy beams, a tiled roof slightly concave projects forward, and exhibits the ends and underside of numbers of rafters supported upon corbelled brackets. Above this roof the upper storey is set a little back and is surrounded by an open balustrade; this upper storey is constructed of wide posts and horizontal beams with wooden filling in, crowned with a cornice of wooden corbels assisting to support the double rafters of the roof. This roof has the heavy appearance, the concave contour, and the semi-gabled form at the ends which is peculiar to all Buddhist temples in the country. After looking at other religious buildings where every part is painted, carved, or gilt, this gateway might be considered somewhat plain, as it has no carving, and is coloured with one uniform dull red colour; but it has more claim to grandeur of proportion and general effect than any other building which I have yet seen in Japan: its great size, good proportion, picturesque roof with ornamental crests, also the numberless corbels, brackets, and rafters, some moulded at the ends so as to suggest the frowning face of a monster; also the deep red colour, bright where the sun strikes it, and subdued in parts by the tree shadows and the sharp deep shadows of its cornices and roofs, all these help to fill the beholder with the liveliest feelings of satisfaction. Passing through this portal we find ourselves in a large open space some 200 feet square, in the centre of which the large temple stood, now burnt to the ground. Across this space, nearly opposite to the great gateway, is a little temple approached by steps leading to a paved ante-court containing a few tombs and an image of Daibutz in bronze. This ante-court is defended towards the entrance by a screen and low gateway. The most note-worthy buildings, however, are on the right hand side of the open space just referred to. These buildings consist of the shrines of the 2nd, 6th, 12th, and 14th Shoguns and those of their wives, with the religious buildings attached. They were originally approached by two other gates, at some distance to the side of the great gateway, which belongs to the large temple now destroyed, but these small gateways are now closed. They are very similar, and it will be sufficient to describe one. The entrance forms the centre of three compartments divided by wooden pillars and connecting beams; the two side compartments form recesses for large wooden figures considerably larger than life, and indicative of exaggerated muscular strength and extreme hideousness. The face of one is painted bright red, and the other a livid green; the posts, wooden panels and gates are carved and coloured in red, black, and gold, with diapers in colour in some parts. The name given to the gate is Nio Mon, Nio being the name of the hideous janitor who is supposed to guard the entrance to Buddhist sanctities, and whose representation is placed in carving on each side of these gateways. Within the Nio Mon an open space or court is passed, containing several rows of stone lamps, being large stone lanterns placed upon circular pillars with heavy bases moulded and carved, in all, about five or six feet high. These were gifts from the smaller Daimios, being offerings to the Shoguns' shrines. Before some shrines there are long avenues of them, increasing in importance as they approach the temple. This court is enclosed by an ornamental screen fence, in which another richly decorated gateway with heavy folding doors leads to another court surrounded on three sides by a wooden screen wall carved and painted and protected by a tiled roof.

Here are situated the large and elegant bronze lamps which were the dedication offerings of the great Daimios, and placed in

* A Paper read at the Royal Institute of British Architects March 4.

the same court to right and left are two structures which are found in some form or other before all Buddhist temples of importance. The first or right-hand building consists of a large battering basement slightly concave and built in this case of stone in large courses, upon which is erected a wooden room of one storey with a large roof, richly carved and coloured roof rafters, brackets, posts, and panels; also an elegant balustrade carried upon projecting corbelled brackets. The ends of the rafters and the corbels of the wooden cornice are carved in the form of dragons and various beasts; and from the corners of the roof little bronze bells and pendant ornaments are suspended by chains. This is called the bell tower, and contains a large bronze bell which was struck formerly in time of war. At the bottom of this battering stone base is one of the few examples of stone carving actually forming part of a building that I have seen, consisting of panels carved with conventional flowers and foliage.

Facing this belfry, upon the opposite side of the court, is a large granite basin, about 3 feet 6 inches by 8 feet, diminishing towards the base, where it is ornamented by means of a trefoil cusp form, cut out of the centre of each side. It has also on one side two exquisitely cast bronze dragons of small size fixed into the stone, and serving as water-spouts. This basin is covered by a highly ornamental shed, consisting of a picturesque tile roof with gilt enrichments, supported upon angle posts sloping inwards towards the top, where they are tied by cross beams supporting brackets and carving just below the eaves. This shed is a beautiful example of Japanese decorative art. The posts are slightly moulded on the edges, and chiselled on the surface in a simple diaper of lines, the whole coloured red. The cross beams which tenon into the posts apparently interpenetrate, their ends reappearing in a moulded form on the other side. They are decorated with a diaper of geometrical design composed of light colours, as are also the groups of brackets above, with the addition of much red and gold. The oversailing rafters of the roof are also richly coloured in a similar way, and shod at the ends with bronze gilt and engraved. The ceiling within is divided by ribs into square panels carved with flowers in relief, and coloured with great delicacy and careful imitation of nature. At the further end of this court, where the largest and most ornate bronze lamps are placed, is a long roofed wooden building upon a stone basement, with a gateway in the centre. This is the entrance of the cloister preceding the Haiden, as the temple we are approaching is called. The long building is quite open on the inside, being a wooden cloister, or gallery, running parallel to the Haiden, from the centre of which another cloister, open on both sides, runs at right angles to the entrance of the Temple. Towards the outside court this cloister presents a range of posts, connected by horizontal beams, filled in with wooden mouldings and carved panels. Above is a wooden cornice, with brackets and projecting roof. The whole being raised above the preceding court presents a stone basement some three feet high, in the centre of which are steps leading to the entrance. The gateway is lower than the roofed cloister, but very imposing. The gate itself is placed between large posts flush with the side walls, but other posts are built out and connected with horizontal beams, so as to form the side of a porch and support the overhanging roof. These sides are filled in some distance from the ground with thick panels of wood carved in the form of a writhing dragon of wonderful execution, cut right through so as to be viewed from either side. The wooden posts or columns of this porch are curved inwards towards the bottom and shod with engraved bronze, placed upon a flat moulded stone base, somewhat similar to that of an Egyptian column. They are reeded, and curve in slightly towards the top, where they are also fitted with an ornamental metal socket. These pillars are connected by horizontal beams, apparently interpenetrating their surface, their moulded ends reappearing. The whole is crowned by the ordinary rich bracketed cornice and forest of rafters, and the ornamental tile roof in this case of double curve.

The gateway and whole range of buildings are beautifully coloured, consisting of bands and small masses of light colour and gilding upon a deep red ground. The posts, beams, and plain woodwork between the panels are red, with gilt bronze shoes, sockets, and belts. A little black is introduced in the form of framework within the main framework of the posts and beams, giving a sort of border to the red panels. In the centre of the spaces thus formed is the raised moulded border, of curvilinear form, containing a panel of carving coloured in whites, light blues, greens, purples, and other cool delicate tints. The beams and brackets of the cornice, and the under sides of the rafters, are decorated in light coloured diapers, not unlike the medieval European diapers found in roofs, ceilings, &c. Gilding is lavishly employed, blended with the colours in the diapers, and ornamenting the edges and mouldings of the beams and panels. On the inside, towards the Temple, the open cloisters are composed of richly carved, coloured, and gilt posts and beams, with cornice and heavy roof. The centre cloister leading up to the steps of the

Haiden increases in height, its roof sloping upwards when the steps are reached until it intersects the principal roof.

The whole interior is low, but this is not always the case in Japanese temples, there being many instances of great interior height, though the entrances are indeed generally low. The floor is the only part which is not ornamented in some way, being covered with the ordinary rush mats; in this case, however, slightly wider than those used in houses. The steps between the rooms are of polished or sometimes of lacquered wood. The entrance is closed with heavy double doors, carved and gilt. The interior walls, where not interrupted by sliding doors and windows at the sides, exhibit the same framework of posts and beams, filled in with panels, and crowned with a cornice supporting the ceiling. The first rows of panels—those next the floor—are filled in with paintings upon a gold ground, representing in some cases large growing flowers and plants, and in other cases hideous imaginary animals. Above these the panels are carved in imitation of flowers and birds, such flowers as the lotus and botan (peony) being great favourites; the whole beautifully coloured. The posts, slightly projecting beyond the panels, support corbels of wooden brackets forming a cornice, with intermediate brackets and paintings between. The framework is coloured red and black, with many metal fittings.

The windows which admit some light within, are small openings of many-curved outline filled in with an open arabesque of wood or metal gilt, placed towards the outside, there being sliding shutters or paper windows on the inside to cover them, if needs be. The ceiling is divided into small squares by ribs, lacquered black, with bronze sockets at the joints: these squares are painted and gilt in representation of dragons. All the painting is done with the most exquisite care and skill. On the outside there are carved panels of birds, plants, and flowers ranged in a line under the coloured bracket, cornice, and rafters. The outside is coloured red, relieved by the gold, bronze, and the light colours of the diapers and carving.

The roof is a fine example of the ordinary temple roof. It is composed of tiles, covered with thin plates of bronze, which have now assumed a dull grey of a slightly greenish tint. The tiles are alternately flat and semicylindrical, and the rolls thus formed along the roof are very effective, added to an ornamental ridge, and richly modelled and gilt terminals. The projecting edges of the tiles at the eaves are gilt, and the cylindrical tiles stamped with the Shogun's crest. The semi-gables which occur at the ends are filled in with carving and pierced wooden pendants, all coloured in red or black, as the parts of the building. This Haiden is said to have been completed as recently as twenty years ago—about ten years before the revolution and the overthrow of feudalism in the country.

In addition to this Haiden, dedicated to the three Shoguns interred in the vicinity, we find, further situated to the right, three small Haidens, scarcely less elaborate dedicated to each Shogun individually, erected at his death, and placed in front of the court preceding his tomb. These three courts behind the smaller Haidens are backed by a high retaining wall, faced with masonry set back, above which are the shrines. They are reached severally by a large flight of stone steps, projecting into the court below. The first reached is the shrine of the 6th Shogun, erected 170 years ago. It is entirely of bronze, and is by far the most handsome of the three. It is some ten feet high, composed of a circular drum with an enriched base upon a stone basement. It is rounded towards the top, and covered with a curved projecting roof formed of bronze, with little chains and bells attached at the corners. Upon the drum is the name of the Shogun sharply cast in the metal, as are also delicate mouldings and foliage, executed with great sharpness.

The whole is enclosed by a low, thick, bronze railing, with little bronze gates diapered on the surface with the favourite key pattern. The tomb is set back; and, in a line with the front of the wall, at the top of the steps, is a little gateway, with roof and double gates, all of bronze. The heavy gates are diapered with very shallow but sharp ornament; and the side wings, or walls, also of bronze, are ornamented with casts of two peacocks in low sharp relief. All the ornament is much more severe, more sparingly used, and the parts much heavier in proportion than the other tombs and their gateways, which are of stone and wood, and of later date.

At Ueno, in the north of the city, there are the Haidens and shrines of the 4th, 5th, 8th, 10th, 11th, and 13th Shoguns, being grouped in threes, having one Haiden to each three, viz., the 8th, 5th, and 13th, and the 4th, 10th, and 11th. The arrangement is exactly similar to that of Shiba, but the stone and bronze lanterns are more numerous; the forms of the roofs, and details of carving, and mode of colouring are rather different. Black is much used in the decoration of these buildings at Ueno. The outer gates are entirely black, with gilt and bronze ornaments, having the peculiarity of a roof covered with small wood shingle instead of tiles. Black is also much used in the decoration of the Haidens, which are otherwise richly coloured, as at Shiba. The shrines of the 4th and 5th Shoguns are bronze, with their railings, gates, and bas reliefs; the bronze has a dull greenish colour approaching to black. Though the arrangements and general mode of construction of these sacred buildings are so similar that to describe each involves much repetition, yet there is such a variety of details—such different treatment in points of decoration, both carving and colouring—that there is in them an endless study for the artist.

The carving is generally cut in camphor wood, and the colour is mixed with a kind of size which seems effectually to resist the action of the weather. The posts, beams and all large surfaces decorated in one colour, are coloured with the medium of lacquer;

which is either left of a dead colour, or is polished to a great degree of brightness. The bronze shoes and other ornaments are deeply engraved and filled in with black in the hollows.

The Japanese sculptors divide carving into three kinds—shallow, deep, and pierced. In the earlier work, such as the bronze tombs and gates of the earlier Shoguns, the relief is very shallow—at the same time very sharp and effective. In the later work, nearly all carving upon the outside—such as in screens, gateways, and cloisters—is pierced in parts, being cut in a thick slab of wood, and can be viewed from either side. A striking thing in sculpture of this kind is the extremely careful imitation of nature, leaves and flowers being carved with a delicacy and truth to nature that is marvellous, and coloured with the same care and beauty. Fruit is gilt, with red dashes of colour showing the ripeness; and the greens in colouring the foliage are varied in their tone. Fore-shortening is frequent and well rendered; and though the Japanese artist does not seem to have understood the principles of perspective, which are often violated when dealing with representations of buildings and rectilinear forms, the perspective of all natural forms is carefully noticed and imitated. In Japanese theatre scenery I have also seen interiors of buildings represented correctly in perspective. The third kind of carving—the deep carving—occurs mostly in the interior of buildings when depth of effect is required, but at the same time no communication with the outer air which would be obtained if pierced carving were used. Beams and posts are often diapered with shallow incised carving, the key pattern being a very favourite one sometimes with the stem and leaves of a plant intertwining. Posts are round, round and reeded, square, or square with the corner slightly rounded or moulded. They are rounded inwards and shod with bronze, both top and bottom, and often a flat bell-shaped capital (similar somewhat to the Egyptian capital called “bell-shaped” by Mr. Ferguson, but flatter still) resting on a stone case of similar form at the bottom. The projections of interpenetrating beams are curled upwards and moulded, or are carved in the form of the fore parts of lions, elephants, or some animal real or imaginary.

In addition to the shrine temples at Ueno there is a temple for public worship, called the temple of Gengen, of considerable size, though far inferior to the large temple burnt down during the revolution. It is approached under a Torii a long paved path, with rude stone lanterns and large trees on either side: this leads to the raised stone platform, or court, which precedes the temple. This is approached by steps and protected by a wooden fence and gateway. This wooden fence is framed with posts and rails, dividing it into three rows of panels horizontally. The centre range is filled in with lattice work of an ornamental character, and the upper and lower ones with carving partly pierced, well coloured, and protected by a little tile roof carried upon a cornice of brackets. The gateway is rather higher than the fence, being covered with an elegant roof of double curve. In this inner court there are elegant bronze lamps; the largest and most ornamental being placed on either side of the steps leading up to the temple floor. The temple is nearly square in form, with a small projection at the back containing a sacred shrine. The whole is carved and coloured both on the interior and the exterior, the constant use of black and red being noticeable, and carving mostly in light colours.

There are a great many Shintoo temples in the country; the principal one at Yedo being the Kudanzaka. The temple grounds are open, and not surrounded by a grove, as are the principal Buddhist temples: they are entered under a structure found before all Shintoo temples, called a Torii. It is composed of two upright posts of great thickness, generally consisting of the whole trunk of a tree rounded, about 15 feet high, and placed 12 feet apart. Across the top of these a wooden lintel is placed, projecting considerably, and curving upwards at the ends; some few feet below this another horizontal piece is tenoned into the uprights, having a little post in its centre helping to support the upper lintel. These Torii were originally of wood, as is the one at Kudanzaka; but when found before Buddhist temples which is not unusual, they are mostly of stone, always showing, however, by their joints and general construction a decidedly wooden origin.

The temple itself is a simple oblong plan, with steps leading up to the entrance, and to an exterior gallery running all round. The roof differs from the roofs of Buddhist temples in being flat and not curved on its sloping surfaces, which are rather steep, and project considerably at the eaves, and in two gable ends. The roof is covered with wood shingle, stained of a dark grey colour. At the gable ends there are cross timbers in the shape of the letter X; straddling the roof also at intervals along the heavy ridge, apparently balanced across it, are curious beams some 6 feet long, tapering towards the ends. The whole appearance is extremely heavy and curious, and the peculiar forms, such as the cross pieces and beams crossing the ridge, seem to indicate its affinity to the original thatched roof. In some parts of the country the Shintoo temples are still covered with thatch. The construction of the walls of the temple is in the main similar to that of the Buddhist temples, but the wood is uncoloured and sparingly decorated with carving. The projecting rafters and ends of beams are generally carved. Colour as an exterior ornamentation is by no means found in all temples, even of Buddhist religion.

There is a temple at Asakusa, in Yedo, which is called Hon-wanji, and which is, I believe, the largest building in the city; but though remarkable for its great size and height, and for the quantity and exquisite workmanship of its carvings, is entirely devoid of colour on the exterior, and the wood has assumed an ashen grey. It is almost square, and is surrounded by a gallery reached by steps, which are roofed over, the posts supporting the roof being shod with bronze, and the beam ends carved into

monsters, lions, or elephants. The gallery floor is supported upon brackets, which spring from the base of the walls of the temple very near to the ground. Numerous beam ends, rafter ends, brackets, and supports are carved into the most delicate representations of flowers, plants, and birds in sharply cut carving. The roof of the temple rises to a great height. The interior is decorated in colour, and, on account of the great span of the roof, there is a peristyle of columns assisting to support it, upon which are groups of corbelled brackets blending with the design of the panelled ceiling. These brackets correspond to similar ones placed round the walls in the cornice over pilasters. The ordinary panels of coloured carving are to be seen below.

Yedo and its immediate neighbourhood contains some twenty-seven temples of importance, besides many other smaller ones as numerous as London parish churches. To describe properly and fully one temple group would require a Paper to itself.

THE JAPAN TIMES, A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

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LEADING ARTICLES.

The Provincial Parliaments. The Provisions of the Bill. The Finance Notifications. April Trade Returns.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

A Contribution to the History of Mathematics in Japan. By A. Westphal.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

‘Nauticus’ on the Mitsu Bishi Company.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Silkworms’ Eggs. Tea. How can a Statesman best secure his position?

EXTRACTS.

Mr. Conder on Japanese Architecture. Part 2.

TRADE RETURNS FOR MARCH AND APRIL.

MAIL STEAMERS’ REGISTER.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 21. MAY 25, 1878.

The Silkworms’ Eggs Notification. The Lessons of the Assassination. Editorial Notes.

Papers of the German Asiatic Society. Historical Account of the System of Weights and Measures in China and Japan. By Dr. G. Wagener.

Correspondence. Dr. Mayet on Fire Insurance in Japan. Mr. Drummond and the Shanghai Courier.

Notes of the Week. Notes and Queries.

The Japanese Press. The Silkworm Egg Notification Manufactures in Japan. England’s Distress India’s Opportunity.

Extracts. Is the Treaty of San Stefano to stand or not? (From *Vanity Fair*.) On Japanese Architecture. By Josiah Conder. (From *The Architect*.)

Mail Steamer Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. Advertisements.

POSTAL NOTICES.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial Japanese Post Office on the 1st day of May, 1878:—

Allen, C.
Arthur, Rev. J.
Botter, Hy.
Bottomley, Thos.
Broschen, Wm.
Chipman, H. S.
Clarke, Sam’l J., 2.
Comstock, H., & Co.
Dauvergne, H.
Deming, Rev. Walter.
Domare.
Done, Dr. Bayley
Feldman, B.
Griffis, Professor W. E.
Hara, T.
Harling, Thoms.
Higginbotham, Jos., 2.
Holburn, Robt.
Jamieson, Mrs.
Kennedy, W.
Leehat.

Lemaine.
Lewis, A., 2.
McDonald, Rev. D.
Mackenn, A.
McCunn, W.
Neels, Witta & Co.
Nelson, Mrs. Wm. C.
Ness, G. P., 2.
Rough, D. S.
Sanzea, David
Shou, K.
Smith, W.
Stentz, Harvey & Co.
Sutton, F. W.
Thorel, Chas., & Co., 6.
Whitlock, A. D.

SHIPS.

Bark “Earl of Devon.”
“Oceania.”
Ship “Sooloo.”

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, May 1st, 1878.

L. T. FARR,
Acting Superintendent.

**RETURN OF THE IMPORT TRADE OF THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA,
FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL, 1878.**

IMPORTS.	QUANTITY.		TOTAL.	VALUE.		
	1st TO 31st MARCH.	1st TO 30th APRIL.		1st TO 31st MARCH.	1st TO 30th APRIL.	TOTAL.
COTTON MANUFACTURES.						
Chints	pcs. 2,000	pcs. —	pcs. 2,000	\$ 3,563	\$ —	\$ 3,563
Drills	" 14	" 1,029	" 1,043	300	4,456	4,756
Flannel	" 296	" —	" 296	1,468	—	1,468
Satins	" 430	" 102	" 532	2,387	400	2,787
Shirtings, Grey	" 37,209	" 65,077	" 102,286	74,003	119,944	193,947
" White	" 2,413	" 5,528	" 7,941	4,657	9,748	14,405
" Dyed	" 1,278	" 6,826	" 8,104	2,069	11,488	13,557
" Twilled... ..	" 2,297	" 9,139	" 11,436	6,595	28,527	35,122
Singlets and Drawers	—	—	—	1,705	2,210	3,915
T.-Cloth	" 3,791	" 7,699	" 11,490	5,643	10,793	16,436
Turkey Red	" 8,141	" 18,482	" 26,623	14,029	31,506	45,535
Velvets	" 6,037	" 10,441	" 16,478	39,443	67,341	106,784
Yarn	pcs 36,193.00	pcs. 26,274	pcs 62,467	966,780	723,163	1,689,943
Other Cotton Fabrics	—	—	—	12,348	17,501	29,849
				\$1,134,990	\$1,027,077	\$2,162,067
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.						
Blankets... ..	pcis. 191.22	pcis. 616.85	pcis. 808.07	10,515	\$ 20,804	\$ 31,319
Cloth	pcs. 769	pcs. 2,169	pcs. 2,938	30,517	80,394	110,911
Flannel	" 46	" 454	" 500	693	6,408	7,101
Merinos	—	" 5	" 5	—	193	193
Mousselines	" 37,006	" 43,568	" 80,574	186,329	203,751	390,080
Other Wool Fabrics	—	—	—	485	862	1,347
				\$ 228,539	\$ 312,412	\$ 540,951
WOOL & COTTON M'FACTURES.						
Alpaca	" 5	pcis. 6	11	40	\$ 125	165
Bunting	—	" 285	285	—	1,375	1,375
Italian Cloth... ..	" 3,612	" 5,642	9,254	17,838	23,359	41,197
Lustres and Orleans	" 796	" 1,737	2,533	2,660	8,117	10,777
Other Mixed Fabrics	—	—	—	5,402	21,782	27,184
				\$ 25,940	\$ 54,758	80,698
METALS.						
Brass	pcis. 48.88	pcis. 8.09	pcis. 56.97	1,822	\$ 237	2,059
Copper	" 76.00	" 731.71	" 807.71	1,672	16,220	17,892
Iron... ..	" 8,247.58	" 26,555.21	" 34,802.79	29,178	81,047	110,225
Lead	" 8,278.39	" 2,927.90	" 11,206.29	47,491	17,565	65,056
" Tea	—	—	—	775	4,747	5,522
Quicksilver	" 57.96	" 105.80	" 163.76	4,886	7,753	12,639
Spelter and Zinc	" 270.71	" 859.97	" 1,130.68	2,490	6,337	8,827
Steel	" 415.09	" 1,946.47	" 2,361.56	2,471	12,763	15,234
Tin... ..	" 257.14	" 456.23	" 713.37	3,190	4,623	7,813
Yellow Metal	" 243.83	" 508.08	" 751.91	4,275	9,787	14,062
				\$ 98,250	\$ 161,079	\$ 259,329
SUGAR.						
Foreign	—	—	—	\$ 3,180	\$ 1,465	\$ 4,645
Chinese	pcis. 45,782.00	pcis. 52,600.14	98,382.14	213,337	334,247	547,584
				\$ 216,517	\$ 335,712	\$ 552,229
Kerosene Oil	gals. 90,000	823,240	913,240	\$ 15,305	\$ 152,100	\$ 167,405
Coal and Coke	tons 1,552	3,686	5,238	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,840	\$ 17,340
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS.						
Arms and Ammunition				\$ 56,055	46,863	102,918
Acids, Chemicals, and Drugs				26,552	46,028	72,580
Beer and Porter				5,024	12,465	17,489
Boots and Shoes				908	816	1,724
Books				614	1,093	1,707
Buttons				1,407	3,459	4,866
Camphor				2,490	1,110	3,600
Canvas				5,351	14,193	19,544
Cattle				584	1,102	1,686
Cement				4,260	211	4,471
Clocks				2,219	14,923	17,142
Clothing... ..				8,699	20,400	29,099
Cotton, Raw				9,993	10,598	20,591
Dyes				12,235	33,754	45,989
Flour				2,963	4,330	7,293
Glass, Window				6,037	5,365	11,402
" Ware				5,801	2,123	7,924
Gunny Bags				333	383	716
Instruments, Scientific & Musical				12,995	7,947	20,942
			Values carried up	\$ 164,580	\$ 227,163	\$ 391,743

IMPORTS.—Continued.

IMPORTS.	QUANTITY.		TOTAL.	VALUE.		
				1st to 31st MARCH.	1st to 30th APRIL.	TOTAL.
		Values	brought up	\$ 164,580	\$ 227,163	\$ 391,743
Leather... ..				14,718	31,340	46,058
Linen				6,722	4,799	11,521
Machinery				1,862	11,823	13,685
Matches				—	1,250	1,250
Oil, (other than Kerosene)... ..				2,294	7,073	9,367
Peas and Beans				410	—	410
Perfumery				1,024	512	1,536
Plate and Nickel				3,149	3,766	6,915
Provisions and Stores... ..				7,211	12,603	19,814
Rope and Cordage				—	8,211	8,211
Silk and Satin				9,414	26,724	36,138
Silk and Cotton				98	2,600	2,788
Soap				3,805	4,897	8,702
Stationery and Paper				25,064	29,482	54,546
Umbrellas, Handles, & Frames... ..				35,685	44,402	80,177
Watches... ..				33,681	30,283	63,969
Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs				12,642	13,682	26,324
Miscellaneous, Foreign				89,445	104,287	193,732
„ Local				37,466	44,283	81,749
				\$ 449,270	\$ 609,365	\$1,058,635
SUMMARY OF VALUE.						
Cotton Manufactures				\$1,134,990	1,027,077	2,162,067
Woollen Manufactures				228,539	312,412	540,951
Mixed Cotton and Woollen				25,940	54,758	80,698
Metals				98,250	161,079	259,329
Sugar				216,517	335,712	552,229
Kerosene				15,305	152,100	167,405
Coal and Coke				5,500	11,840	17,340
Miscellaneous				440,270	609,365	1,058,635
				\$2,174,311	\$2,664,343	4,838,654
DIVISION OF THE IMPORT TRADE MARCH AND APRIL, 1878.						
From Europe				\$1,732,321	1,914,605	3,646,926
„ United States				63,115	279,219	342,334
„ China, the Straits, the Philippines, Netherlands' India, Bombay, Calcutta and Australia				378,875	470,519	849,394
				\$2,174,311	2,664,343	4,838,654

RETURN OF THE EXPORT TRADE OF THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA.

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH AND APRIL, 1878.

EXPORTS.	QUANTITY.		TOTAL.	VALUE.		
	1st to 31st MARCH.	1st to 30th APRIL.		1st to 31st MARCH.	1st to 30th APRIL.	TOTAL.
Awabi Fish	pcls. 301.59	pcls. 383.79	pcls. 685.38	9,043	12,257	21,300
„ Shells... ..	„ 160.03	„ 321.34	„ 481.37	531	623	1,154
Bronze	„ 1,954.62	„ —	„ 1,954.62	25,410	360	25,770
China Root	„ 968.40	„ 199.50	„ 1,167.90	2,279	—	2,279
Coal... ..	tons 250.00	tons 200	tons 450	2,500	2,000	4,500
Cocoons, Pierced	pcls. 410.00	pcls. 2.25	pcls. 412.25	27,100	150	27,250
„ Waste	„ —	„ 20.50	„ 20.50	—	390	390
Copper	„ 1,281.03	„ 1,297.76	„ 2,578.79	18,339	22,520	40,859
Curios	„ —	„ —	„ —	51,353	45,004	96,357
Cuttle Fish	„ 603.75	„ 781.87	„ 1,385.62	6,770	9,340	16,110
Fans	pces. 401,370	pces. 160,920	pces. 562,290	8,804	1,817	10,621
Fish, Dried	pcls. 4,833.26	pcls. 4,525.59	pcls. 9,358.85	12,781	18,714	31,495
Ginseng	„ 192.92	„ 179.17	„ 372.09	13,186	8,916	22,102
Isinglass	„ 173.24	„ 148.88	„ 322.12	5,331	4,148	9,479
Mushrooms	„ 194.00	„ 439.04	„ 633.04	6,571	13,265	19,836
Porcelain & Earthenware	„ —	„ —	„ —	1,708	6,059	7,767
Rice... ..	pcls. 68,865.00	„ 7.50	„ 68,872.50	155,235	18	155,253
Seaweed Cut... ..	„ 994.28	„ 785.37	„ 1,779.65	2,340	2,164	4,513
„ Uncut	„ 862.40	„ 578.30	„ 1,440.70	2,333	1,258	3,591
Silk, Raw ... Bales 1,340	„ 692.42	„ 441.56	„ 1,133.98	351,452	227,412	578,864
„ Noshi	„ 273.25	„ 327.67	„ 600.92	29,800	29,160	58,960
„ Floss	„ 22.85	„ 68.65	„ 91.50	3,891	11,074	14,965
„ Waste	„ 431.63	„ 450.04	„ 881.67	15,554	12,157	27,711
Silk Piece Goods	pces. 23	pces. 28	pces. 51	509	673	1,182
Tea	pcls. 1,004.60	pcls. 1,931.33	pcls. 2,935.93	22,545	42,047	64,592
„ Branches	„ 472.27	„ 154.80	„ 627.07	569	160	729
„ Dust	„ 44.32	„ 247.61	„ 291.93	150	578	728
Tobacco	„ 332.61	„ 276.24	„ 608.85	3,580	2,850	6,430
Wheat	„ 25,071.00	„ 36,402.70	„ 61,473.70	46,071	65,237	111,308
Miscellaneous	„ —	„ —	„ —	6,478	10,836	17,314
				\$ 832,222	\$ 551,217	\$1,383,439

DIVISION OF THE EXPORT TRADE OF MARCH AND APRIL, 1878.

	1st TO 31st MARCH.	1st TO 30th APRIL.	TOTAL.
To Europe	\$ 422,543	\$ 233,917	656,460
„ United States	87,496	145,700	233,196
„ India	1,283	20,100	21,383
„ Australia	710	180	890
„ China &c.	320,190	151,320	471,510
	\$ 832,222	\$ 551,217	\$ 1,383,439

RETURN OF SPECIE AND BULLION IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA.

FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL, 1878.

	1st TO 31st MARCH.	1st TO 30th APRIL.	TOTAL.
IMPORTED.			
Dollars.	—	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Silver Yen	yen 1,000	—	yen 1,000
	yen 1,000	\$ 80,000	81,000
EXPORTED.			
Dollars	101,700	—	101,700
Gold Yen	371,000	208,050	579,050
Silver Yen	277,405	38,300	315,705
Nibookin	107,835	96,780	204,615
Silver Boos	22,163	16,950	39,113
Copper, Coin	1,000	5,000	6,000
Other Coin	—	8,460	8,460
Bar Silver	48,290	—	48,290
	929,393	373,540	1,302,933
VALUE.			
Mexican Dollars	149,990	8,460	158,450
Japanese Yen	779,403	365,080	1,144,483

RETURN OF THE RE-EXPORTS FROM THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA,

FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL, 1878.

	VALUE.		
	1st TO 31st MARCH.	1st TO 30th APRIL.	TOTAL.
Arms and Ammunition	\$ 960	\$ 10,090	\$ 11,050
Books	—	50	50
Coal	—	2,400	2,400
Dyes	—	611	611
Gunny Bags	1,500	—	1,500
Iron	150	—	150
Machinery	1,000	—	1,000
Paper	—	410	410
Miscellaneous	5,935	1,655	7,590
	\$ 9,545	\$ 15,246	\$ 24,791

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;

COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE THERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED THERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	May 22	May 30		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	June 5	June 13	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	Apr. 26	June 11		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	June 5	July 29	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	„ 19	June 5		M. M. Co.'s -	London	June 12	Aug. 5	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco				P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco			
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	May 19	June 10		O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	June 6	June 25	

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

TIME AND FARE TABLES.

MILES.	STATIONS.	DOWN TRAINS.												FARES.		
		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st Cls.	2nd Cls.	3rd Cls.
—	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	—	—	—
8½	Shinagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
6	Omori.....	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	— 40	— 20	— 10
10½	Kawasaki.....	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	— 55	— 30	— 15
12½	Tsurumi.....	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	— 70	— 40	— 20
16½	Kanagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Yokohama.....	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	1 00	— 60	— 30

UP TRAINS.

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen sen	yen sen	yen sen
—	Yokohama.....	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	—	—	—
1½	Kanagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
6½	Tsurumi.....	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	— 40	— 20	— 10
7½	Kawasaki.....	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	— 55	— 30	— 15
12	Omori.....	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	— 70	— 40	— 20
14½	Shinagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	1 00	— 60	— 30

STATEMENT OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

	Passengers &c.	Goods &c.	Total.
TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION. (Miles open 18) for week ended April 20th 1878...	\$ 8,147.32	\$ 991.61	\$ 9,138.93
for corresponding period last year.	7,228.14	839.75	8,067.89
	Increase.....		\$ 971.04
KIOTO—KOBE SECTION. (Miles open 47½) for week ended May 19th 1878	\$11,095.976	\$1,119.11	\$12,215.086
for corresponding period last year			\$11,952.665
	Increase.....		\$ 262.421

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 31st, 1878.

IMPORTS:—The week ending 31st May has been unusually quiet. Transactions have been on the smallest possible scale, and afford no indication of the extent of the demand for imported Cottons which is believed to exist in the interior. Yarn is in fairly large stock, but the attempt made by buyers to reduce prices to their own ideas has been met by a firm front on the part of holders, equivalent, in many cases, to an almost total withdrawal of their goods from current offers. The improved political aspect of European Affairs, the home silk news, and the prospect of renewed activity in that important export, tend to give a firm tone to imports, and if holders will continue their present steadiness in refusing to submit to the losing prices of the day, a general advance, and the re-opening of satisfactory business may be looked for shortly.

There is nothing of interest to advise in connection with any particular class of goods.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** Since the 24th inst., the date of our last report, this market has been as active as could be expected at this season, with such insignificant stocks on show; only about 300 native bales. Prices are pretty well maintained, and holders of what silk there is do not seem at all anxious to sell. The season, in fact, may be considered almost closed.

On the whole, the advices we receive respecting the new crop are favourable, and the export of 1878-79 is expected to reach a large figure.

TEA:—Business in this market still continues brisk, and supplies are pouring in freely, amongst them being some of lower grades than have yet been reported. Some few small lots of Good Common have found purchasers at from \$12 to \$14, but hardly in sufficient bulk to establish a quotation. The leaf character of these parcels is very uneven and ragged, and liquor in cup very inferior.

BLACK:—Further supplies of these have come in; and we can now furnish approximate values, thus:—

Good ordinary, Souchong flavour, ...	\$26 to \$28
Superior to fine, ditto ...	\$29 to \$32
Superior to fine, Pekoe kind ...	\$33 to \$36

We may find reasons to modify these classifications, as fuller supplies come in; but the above, we believe, will be found to describe the grades so far to hand, as accurately as possible in an article of produce of such recent fashion. The character of some parcels is clean and fair in cup, but still they lack the style and pungency of China Red Leafs of the same class. The bulk, too, fails to dissipate the ideas we have stated of their lack of keeping quality. We understand that samples are going forward to both the London and American markets, to be followed by shipments at no distant date; and we hope then to wait on our readers with full reports of their suitability for the home consumer.

EXCHANGE:—Rather more has been done this week in sterling on London at a shade easier rates. Bank paper 6 m/s has been taken to a moderate extent at 3/11½ and 60 days at 3/11½. Credits 4/. On Hongkong and Shanghai a small business is reported at quotations. On New York and San Francisco we hear of no transactions.

We quote:—London Bank, 6 months' sight 3s. 11½d. sight, 3s. 10½d. Credits 6 months' sight 4s. 0d. Documents 6 months' sight 4s. 0½d. Documents continental, 4s. 0½d. Paris Bank, 6 months' sight 4.97½, sight 4.90.—Documents 6 months' sight 5.05. Shanghai Bank Bills, sight 72½. Private, 10 days' sight 73½. Hongkong Bank Bills, sight 4 0/0 disct. Private, 10 days' sight 1½ 0/0 disct. San Francisco Bank sight 95. New York Bank, sight 95. **BULLION.** Gold Yen 391, Kinsatsu 427.

QUOTATIONS OF ARTICLES OF IMPORT AND EXPORT.

IMPORTS.	Prices.	Reported Sales.	REMARKS.
Cotton Yarn—			
Nos. 16 to 24 per picul	\$29.00 to 30.75	425 Bales	Enquiry falling off.
" ditto Reverse " "	nominal		
" 28 to 32 " " " "	80.50 to 33.50	425 "	Wanted. Holders firm.
" 38 to 42 " " " "	36.00 to 37.50		Steady.
(Bombay) No. 20 " " " "	28.00 to 28.25	193 "	Firm.
" Nos. 16 to 18 " " " "	27.50 to 28.00	20 "	Do.
" No. " " " " "	— —		
Cotton Piece Goods—			
Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	1.85 to 2.27½	1,000 pieces	Common sorts only asked for.
" " 8.4... .. " "	2.10 to 2.40	4,550 "	Firm. Advancing tendency.
" " 9 lbs., 45 in. " "	nominal		
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. " "	1.65 to 1.65		No business.
" 7.0 lbs. " "	nominal		
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. " "	— to —		
Wh. Shtgs. 60 to 64 reed 40 yds. 35 in. " "	nominal		
Indigo Shirtings 12 yds by 44 in. " "	1.67½ to 1.75	2,075 "	Quiet.
Turkey Red Cambrics 2½ to 2½ lbs. " "	nominal		
" 3.0 lbs. " "	7.00 to 7.25	1,200 "	Small demand. Large stocks.
Black Velvets " "	nominal		
Taffachelass (single warp) " "	1.90 to —		
" (double warp) " "	0.77½ to 0.80	8,500 "	Small demand.
Chintzes (assorted) " "	nominal		
Victoria Lawns " "	— —		
Cotton Italians (col'd) per yard			
" " (blk.) " "			
Woollens and Worstedes—			
Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards per piece	— to —		
Mousselines de Laine 24 to 30 yds. by 31 in. " "	0.17½ to 0.17½	1,600 "	All classes of Woollen Manufactured goods inactive.
" Plain per yard	0.20 to —		
" Striped " "	— to —		
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	— to —		
Cloth (Woollen) per yard	— to —		
" Union (54 in.) " "	— to —		
Blankets 6 lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lb. " "	— to —		
" 7 " to 8 " " " "	— to —		
Metals, &c.—			
Iron, Nail Rod—large " " per picul	2.40 to 2.80		Quiet—very few sales.
" " small " "	3.00 to 3.20		
" Bars, flat and round " "	2.60 to 3.25		
" Pig " "	1.50 to 1.80		
Lead " " " " " " " "	6.80 to 7.00		Nominal.
Tin Plates " "	5.60 to 6.00		Do.
Window Glass per box	2.80 to 3.90		Do.
Kerosine Oil per case	2.75 to 2.77½		Market weaker.
Quicksilver " "	63.90 to —		Nominal.
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 to —		
" Welsh " "	11.50 to 12.00		
" Australian... .. " "	9.00 to 9.50		
China and Straits Produce—			
Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.50 to 15.75		Fair demand,
Formosa Sugar, Takao " "	5.25 to 5.80		
" " Taiwan " "	5.10 to 5.20		
" " White " "	nominal		
Saigon Rice " "	— —		

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2 \$ — to — per pcl.	550 to —	19s. 9d.	54.80 fr.	} 200 Bales.	} 800 native bales.
" No. 2 " "	520 to —	18s. 9d.	52.00 fr.		
" No. 2½ (good medium) " "	480 to 490	17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d.	48.30 fr. to 49.25 fr.		
" No. 3 (medium) " "	450 to 470	16s. 6d. to 17s. 0d.	45.50 fr. to 47.40 fr.		
" Inferior " "	— to —				
Oshio No. 1 and 2 " "	480 to 500	17s. 6d. to 18s. 0d.	48.30 fr. to 50.15 fr.		
Hamaeki No. 1, 2 and 3 " "	— to —				
Tea:—					
Common per pcl.	— to —			} 5,500 pcls.	} arrivals about 7,500 piculs.
Good Common... .. " "	— to —				
Medium " "	— to —				
Good Medium " "	19.00 to 21.00				
Fine " "	22.00 to 25.00				
Finest " "	26.00 to 29.00				
Choice " "	31.00 to 35.00				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu per pcl.	12.00 to —	} Nothing doing.			
" Various " "	7.00 to 9.50				
Vegetable, Wax " "	13.50 to —				
Coal, Takashima " "	9.00 to 10.50				
" Karatz " "	7.00 to 9.00				
" Common " "	6.00 to 7.00				
Rice " "	2.35 to 2.75				
Sulphur (common)... .. " "	2.60 to 2.80				

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
May 25	Emma C. Beal	Bailey	Am. barq.	567	Newcastle N.S.W.	Mar. 24	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 25	Sunda	Reeves	Brit. str.	1,704	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 25	Rurik	Bergelund	Russ. barq.	830	Newcastle N.S.W.	" 19	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 28	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	May 26	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 28	Gondolier	Atkinson	Brit. ship	1,049	Newcastle N.S.W.	" 21	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 28	Glamis Castle	Greig	Brit. str.	1,583	Hongkong	" 21	General	Adamson, Bell & Co.
" 29	Monocacy	Fyffe	Am. sloop	1,370	Shanghai			
" 29	Imbat	Jones	Brit. str.	868	London		General	W. M. Strachan & Co.
" 29	La Clocheterie	Riennier	Frch. corvette	1,990	Kobe			
" 29	Cosmao	Dumas Vence	Frch. corvette	1,900	Kobe			
" 30	Kokonoya Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Hakodate	" 26	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 30	Glenlyon	Wallace	Brit. str.	1,373	London		General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 30	Elizabeth Ostle	Flynn	Brit. barq.	739	Hongkong		Ballast	Ed, Fischer & Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—Mr. Jas. White, Mrs. and Miss White, and two servants, Mrs. Wignall, 11 Chinese and 1 Japanese in cabin.

Per Brit. str. *Glenlyon* from London:—Miss Dulvey. From Shanghai for Kobe: Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17; "Bon Accord," Mar. 21.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Fleetwing," Dec. 14; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; "Hase," Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24; "City of Boston," Mar. 8; "G. H. Ingersoll," Mar. 15; "Hattie E. Tapley," Mar. 19; "Francisca," April 7; "Pym," March 20.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 8.

FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM ANJER:—"Fair Leader," Apr. 8; "Fleetwing," Apr. 5; "Mary Goodell," Apr. 9.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.

FROM HONGKONG:—

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"Gaelic," May 18.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," S. S. "Egean," "Berwickshire," S. S. "Mikado," S. S. "Sumatra." At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str., June 11th; Hongkong M. M. str., June 5th; San Francisco, O. & O. str., June 10th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str., May 30th.

CARGO:—Per Brit. str. *Sunda* from Hongkong:—Sugar, 9,294 bags; General Merchandise, 1,287 packages.

REPORTS:—The British steamer *Glenlyon* reports:—Left Shanghai on the 26th May at 7 a.m. Experienced a strong gale from the South, with very high sea, heavy rains, and thick weather. From the Saddle Islands to Satana-no-Misaki slowed engines eight hours to await clear weather. Thence to Yokohama had strong breezes from the North. Anchored in harbour at 11.30 a.m. of the 30th.

The British barque *Elizabeth Ostle* reports:—Left Hongkong 19th May. Had fresh Easterly winds till 21st; when had light S. W. winds, 24th strong S.W. gales and heavy weather; made Rock Island on the night of the 29th, and experienced a heavy gale from W. N. W. Arrived at anchorage at 9 p.m. on the 30th, 11 days out. Expect to leave for Yokkaichi in a few days.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & RIG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DISPATCHED BY.
May 25	City of Tokio	Maury	Am. str.	5,070	Hongkong	May 31	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 25	Akitsuahima Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	690	Hakodate	" 29	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 27	Seirio Maru	Frahm	Jap. str.	463	Hakodate	" 31	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 27	Shario Maru	Mayes	Jap. str.	800	Kobe	" 29	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 29	Tibre	De Girard	Frch. str.	1,726	Hongkong	" 29	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 29	Hiroshima Maru	Burdiss	Jap. str.	1,870	Shanghai & ports	June 6	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 30	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	" 2	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—Messrs. Shand, Alouis, Carbonnier, Landles, Schmidt, Wilkie, Mr. and Mrs. Berger and 1 child, Mr. and Mrs. Charles and two children, and A. Fan.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Wetmore, Mr. and Mrs. Ninomachi, Mr. and Mrs. Plummer and child, Master K. Kingdon, Revd. C. T. Warren, Mr. Omura, and two Japanese ladies, Messrs. Watanabe, M. L. Pelly, W. H. Anderson, A. Pavenstedt, R. S. Schwabe, F. G. White, Osai, Godai, Kawasaki, E. C. Kirby, Iwasaki, Saito, and J. Taylor.

LOADING:—*Sunda*, for Hongkong and Europe, June 5th.—P. & O. Co.

Nagoya Maru, for Shanghai and ports, June 5th.—M. B. M. Co.

Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Belgie, for San Francisco, June 5th.—O. & O. Co.

Obed Baxter, for New York, Quick despatch.—C. & J. Trading Co.

Glamis Castle, for New York, Quick despatch.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Manhegan, for San Francisco, June 20th.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Kokonoya Maru, for Hakodate, June 3rd.—M. B. M. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, for Hakodate and Niigata, June 2nd.—M. B. M. Co.

Imbat, for Kobe, June 3rd.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Glenlyon, for New York, Quick despatch.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

MAILS LEAVING:—For Hongkong, P. & O. str., June 5th: for Hongkong, M. M. str., June 12th: for America, O. & O. str., June 5th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str., June 12th; for Hakodate, M. B. M. str. June 3rd.

CARGO:—Per Frch. str. *Tibre* for Hongkong:—Silk for London, 31 bales; Silk for France, 289 bales; Treasure, \$23,200.00.

Per Jap. str. *Hiroshima Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure for Shanghai, \$700.00; Treasure for Kobe, yen 107,966.00.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Glamis Castle	Greig	British steamer	1,583	Hongkong	May 28	Adamson, Bell & Co.	Kobe.
Glenlyon	Wallace	British steamer	1,373	London	May 30	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	New York.
Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	May 28	M. B. M. Co.	
Imbat	Jones	British steamer	868	London	May 29	W. M. Strachan & Co.	Kobe.
Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Japanese steamer	1,133	Hakodate	May 30	M. B. M. Co.	Hakodate.
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Sunda	Reeves	British steamer	1,704	Hongkong	May 25	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong.
Tanais	De la Marcellle	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	May 20	M. M. Co.	Hongkong.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Japanese steamer	1,300	Hakodate	May 30	M. B. M. Co.	Hakodate.
SAILING SHIPS.							
Belle Morse	Hutchins	American ship	1,307	Nagasaki	May 7	P. M. Co.	
Coldinghame	Phillips	British ship	1,069	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Coulmakyle	Gordon	British ship	579	London	May 15	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Elizabeth Ostle	Flynn	British barque	739	Hongkong	May 30	Ed. Fischer & Co.	
Emma C. Beal.	Bailey	American barque	567	N'wca'le n.s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	F'r fre'htorch'rt'r.
Gondolier	Atkinson	British ship	1,049	N'wca'le n.s.w.	May 23	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newc'tle n.s.w.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	San Francisco
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboyne	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	New York
Burik	Bergeland	Russian barque	839	N'wca'le n.s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Monocacy...	6	1,370	Sloop ...	Captain Fyffe.
BRITISH—Juno...	8	2,216	Corvette ...	Captain Poland.
" —Kestrel...	4	462	Gun vessel ...	Captain Theobald.
" —Modesto...	27	1,913	Corvette ...	Captain Mead.
" —Egeria...	4	1,011	Sloop ...	Captain Douglas, B. N.
FRENCH—La Clochette...	12	1,990	Corvette ...	Captain Rieunier.
" —Cosmao...	12	1,900	Corvette ...	Captain Dumas Venoe.
JAPANESE—Kongo...	9	1,800	Corvette ...	Captain Webb, B. N.
" —Hi-yei...	9	1,761	Corvette ...	Captain Blackburne.
RUSSIAN—Boyan...	8	2,000	Corvette ...	Captain Boyle.
" —Vsadnick...	8	1,069	Corvette ...	Captain Novosilsky.
" —Haydamak...	8	1,100	Corvette ...	Captain Tirtoff.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ... \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND ... \$1,000,000.

Head Office: HONGKONG.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.
Deputy Chairman—Wm. H. FORBES, Esq.

E. R. Bellios, Esq., H. L. Dalrymple, Esq., H. Hoppius, Esq., Hon. W. Keswick, Adam Lind, Esq., Wilhelm Reiners, Esq., W. S. Young.
Chief Manager—THOS. JACKSON, Esq.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

A. H. Phillpots, Esq., Director of London and County Bank.
E. F. Duncanson, Esq., of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.
Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.
Manager—DAVID McLEAN, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI:

Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

London, Bombay, Calcutta, Foochow, Shanghai, Hiogo, Hankow, Saigon, Amoy, San Francisco, Manila, Singapore.

YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, AUG. 30, 1851.

Paid-up Capital £1,500,000.
Reserved Funds £ 500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of British and Foreign Securities, the custody of the same, the receipt of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA
LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Branches and Sub Branches.

In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
Ceylon Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Malala.
Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
Java Batavia, Sourabaya.
China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

BANKERS.

Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
(ESTABLISHED 1824.)

These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,
PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1821.

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....12 Months.....1½	Per Cent.
" " " ".....6 " ".....1 " "	" "
" " " ".....3 " ".....½ " "	" "
" " " ".....1 " ".....¼ " "	" "
" " " ".....10 days.....3-16 " "	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,	
First Class, per annum.....2½	Per Cent.
Second " " ".....3 " "	" "
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,	
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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 23.]

June 8, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

REFORM OF THE PRESS LAWS.

THE *Akebono Shimbun* of May 31st. published a draft of the proposed new code of 'regulations for the publication of newspapers,' which is now under consideration in the *Genrō-in*. As this publication could only have been made by consent, the inference is legitimate that the Government wishes to have some expression of public opinion upon the changes it will make in an important section of the law. So far as we know at present, the native press has not responded to the call. We do not think it well to put the code on record ourselves, until it has been finally approved, and is promulgated as an Edict; but as we happen to know that the utterances of the foreign press are studied by the men at the head of affairs in Japan with considerable care, our summarizing the draft and remarking upon its prominent points will not be thought out of place or our criticism deemed unwelcome.

Foreign journalists in Japan, and foreign visitors who, after a few weeks' travel, write upon the country, its people, its politics and its resources, do not, as a rule, gauge fairly or accurately the depths of their own ignorance of the nation; or make sufficient allowance for the difficulties and dangers which surround and harass its rulers. At the same time, we must permit ourselves the remark that the latter have, themselves, not infrequently erred, in making radical changes without giving time or opportunity for sufficient discussion upon them. And we are also of opinion, that the press,—which gives a means of expression for the thoughts of the most intelligent of the people, and might be a very powerful engine for good in influencing the minds of the less intelligent, has been unduly mistrusted and quite insufficiently used. The Government apparently fails to see that the most effective way to meet attacks made upon its policy is by using the same weapons in its own defence: there is assuredly a larger number of people interested in the support of the existing system than in its overthrow, and we have no reason to believe that in their ranks there is a smaller proportion of educated men capable of defending the policy of the Mikado's present advisers than is to be found amongst those who disapprove of and would attack it. It is certain that, by repressing or punishing the expression of adverse opinion, a nation's rulers give to what is imagined a far greater importance than could attach to anything written: whereas one victory, fairly won for them in literary controversy, would give a greater stability to their power than a thousand press prosecutions. And we entirely fail to see in any recent acts of the Government, anything for which they need fear the fullest criticism. We have ourselves subjected each fresh Notification that has been issued of any importance to analysis and remark: we have not always been able to commend, we have frequently had to make suggestions, to point out omissions, sometimes to condemn what have appeared to us to be errors. But we believe that every line of what

has appeared in these columns would have done nothing but good, if the same sentiments had found expression in the native Press. While, had a fuller liberty been permitted to the journals of the capital, had they been permitted to discuss current events as freely as ourselves, can it be doubted that much more good might have been done? The newspapers were permitted to report the minutes of proceedings of the *Kuwan Kuwaigi*, how much more weight would have attached to their deliberations had the debates been reported as well, and how materially might—for instance—the new Provincial Synod Bill have been improved during its course through the house, had its sections been subjected, day by day, as they were brought forward, to the attack and defence of opposition and government journals. Settled and passed, after having passed through the strengthening ordeal of press criticism, it would have gone into operation among constituencies familiar with its provisions, and prepared to assist in carrying them out. And again, if the Finance Minister had invited free expression of opinion upon his Trade Dollar Notification while it was yet in draft, he might have had fresh ideas, fresh arguments presented to him which might have changed his views. The *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō*, in an article which we quote, and reply to, to-day, states, fairly enough, the arguments in favour of the Government's action—so far as it can:—surely no harm could have been done, had such a reply as that of ours appeared originally in the columns of the *Chōya Shimbun*.

It may be—we trust that it is so—that the draft in the *Akebono Shimbun* of the new Press Code is published to elicit criticism, with a view to its amendment before it becomes law. Should this be the intention of the Government, the remarks of the foreign press may have a certain amount of weight, and we accordingly give a short analysis of the proposed bill.

We see no reason to object to the first two clauses, except in one particular. These provide that notice must be given to the *Naimu-shō* (Home Office) of the intention to publish a newspaper, and a license obtained therefrom, and that a money guarantee must be given in the form of a deposit in one of the National Banks. A concession is made, of considerable value, to publications which concern themselves only with literature or science, or which give the Government's Notifications or market quotations, without political comment. (It is not clear whether the discussion of economic and trade questions is permitted in such journals, but it appears probable.) Such have to make no deposit. The promulgation of facts and figures, therefore, and of useful knowledge apart from politics, is rendered as free as possible. Journalists who intend to discuss politics have to make a deposit, varying from one hundred to fifteen hundred *yen*, and the Home Minister is empowered to demand, from time to time, that the deposit originally made shall be increased. To this last clause we must take exception. The most noticeable point in the

code as a whole is that imprisonment for press offences (outside of libel, of course,) is abolished altogether; and we hail this as a great step in advance. But as it is only proper that some check should be imposed, for a time, upon Japanese journalists, fines up to seven hundred *yen*, or periods of suspension up to one hundred days, may be inflicted in lieu of imprisonment; * and, in exaggerated cases—when the Home Minister considers that the peace of the country is actually endangered by its publication, a paper may be altogether suppressed, the whole of its deposit-money confiscated, and the proprietor and editor in fault debarred from the exercise of the profession of journalism for as long as three years. We see no reason to object to this in principle, but the wording of the sub-section, which empowers the Home Minister to order an increase of the amount of deposit is so vague that we cannot understand it. We are told that the amount of security which may be demanded is from one hundred to fifteen hundred *yen*: then, that the Home Minister may order an increase in the security money according to its influence. Now, no paper has any influence at first,—‘influence’ depends entirely on circulation. We cannot therefore imagine that any sum in excess of one hundred *yen* will be demanded of any paper on its first establishment, and it may be intended that the compulsory deposit may be gradually increased, as the journal’s circulation widens, up to fifteen hundred *yen*, at the discretion of the Minister. We are confirmed in this belief by noting that the amount of fine in no case exceeds seven hundred *yen*, except when the journal is absolutely suppressed. But the clause should be more distinctly worded; as it stands, is obscure.

Article III reasserts the obnoxious exclusion of foreigners from the native press. Owners, editors, printers, must all be Japanese, and though ‘contributors’ and ‘correspondents’ are not named in the text, we believe they are meant to be included in the general prohibition. We have recently expressed our opinion that the native Government, by this prohibition, not only debar the people from acquiring much useful information, but deprives itself of valuable and intelligent support. How much more clearly, for instance, could a foreign journalist demonstrate the necessity of imposing these very restrictions than can any Japanese, the press of whose country is not ten years old! An immense inherited wealth of experience, history and argument is at his command, from which a native publicist is debarred. And how much more readily would the people accept such arguments, if put before them in the original, in their own native papers, than merely as translations from a foreign sheet! When we heard that imprisonment for press offences was to be abolished and deposits of caution-money substituted, we were in hopes that this exclusion of foreign pens from Japanese journalism would likewise be removed. Its withdrawal would be the next onward step towards freedom.

Art IV provides that an Editor shall be appointed who will bear the entire responsibility of everything that appears in the paper, and whose name will be printed at the end of each issue. Contributors or correspondents who write on ‘home or foreign affairs, the national finance, the condition of the country, literature, religion and other subjects concerning the rights and liberties of the Government and the people’ must attach their signatures to their work, but are only held responsible after the Editor. But as imprisonment is abolished, and fines will evidently be paid out of the caution money, or other funds of the paper, the operation of this clause will not bear heavily on individuals.

Translations of matter from foreign ‘papers, magazines,

* Under the law of 1875, both imprisonment and fine were the attached penalties to press offences; and occasionally, suspension as well.

or miscellaneous publications’ which infringe these regulations are to be treated as original matter, and their publication punished in the same way. This is perfectly reasonable. Corrections of false reports have to be made as under the old law, but the penalty for infraction of the rule is reduced, and a limit of six months is set for the demand for apology to be made. The very sensible provision is maintained that writers who incite their readers to violations of law are held equally guilty with the actual law-breakers; and we are glad to see a penalty at last put upon the publication of items offending against public morality and decency. Suits in the Courts, *sub judice*, are not to be reported. This seems an inconvenient prohibition; restraint of comment, as with ourselves, should be sufficient, particularly as there are in Japan no juries to be influenced by what they read. No documents relating to foreign countries, nor memorials to the Government, are to be published without permission; and finally, power is reserved to the Home Minister to suppress entirely, or for any period, and to confiscate the whole of the deposit-money, when he considers the continued publication of any journal likely to endanger the peace of the country. In this latter case only does any punishment fall on the person; and this only the light one of being prohibited from exercising the profession of journalism for periods of from one to three years. To subjects of constitutional, representative governments, this power, vested in the hands of a single individual, would seem tyrannous and unbearable; but so long as the government of Japan remains what it is, a despotism, this arbitrary power must necessarily be exercised by its members. And until, we take leave to say, the people and the press,—at present their only representative,—show themselves fitted for better things, it is well that this strong check should be retained. It is well for Japan that—as we said last week—her despotic government is administered by men who are enthusiasts for constitutionalism; the powers created by this law appear to us to be in safe hands, and are not likely to be misused.

On the whole, the Government and people of Japan are to be congratulated on a decided amelioration of the Press Laws; and, with the exception of the continued exclusion of foreign writers, who could both raise the tone of the native press, and help the Government in educating the people, there seems little room for further amendment for some years to come. In our opinion the native press has now as much freedom as is good for it at present; and, as we have had occasion to notice, Government has exercised, during the past six months, a very wise leniency towards it. The forthcoming modifications of the law indicate still further its wish to conciliate native journalists, and it remains for these now, by refraining from abusing their new privileges, to show themselves worthy to have granted to them still greater concessions.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

A WRITER in the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō*, the leading commercial journal of the capital, laments the want of schools where a practical mercantile education can be given to boys and young men destined for mercantile life. He appears to think that some compilation of rules for commercial education can be drawn up, which would be easily intelligible and which would answer the purpose which he seeks. It must certainly appear strange to many a Japanese mind that, among all the highly paid foreign professors whose services are retained by the Government, to teach various branches of education in the boasted western fashion, not one can be found to give really useful and practical instruction in every-day common-place business. But this writer very naïvely tells us how his

countrymen, having discarded a most excellent system—indeed the only practical system—of commercial education, by means of apprenticeship, now appear to want a 'royal road' to the acquirement of this branch of knowledge. We must tell him that there is none, either for Japanese or for students of any other nationality.

There exist in Europe and in America what are called 'commercial academies'—and in some places, where education is treated as a science and made the speciality of the town—as, for instance, in Geneva,—a pupil may go through one or other of various alternative courses, according to the career for which he is destined. And of these courses, one is always devoted to the teaching of such branches of study as are likely to be found useful in commercial life. Great attention is paid to hand-writing; to the study of English, as the mercantile language of the world; other modern languages are cultivated to some extent; book-keeping is taught, after a fashion,—that is, its leading principles are explained; the study of arithmetic, as applied to commerce, and particularly of mental arithmetic, occupies much of the pupils' time, and, in the higher classes, the broad outlines of Plutonomy, and a smattering of mercantile law,—both of which subjects had better be left to be taken up in later life—are offered to the student. Such a school might easily be established in Japan, or such a 'course' grafted on to the existing university system. But the result would be precisely the same as among western nations. The pupils would come out of such a school, and would enter merchants' office, only to find that they had learnt nothing of any practical value to them, unless they happened, which is very unusual in early life, to have acquired a rapid, yet clear and firm style of penmanship. Every branch of trade has its special knowledge, which is, in it, the only valuable knowledge;—each merchant has his own method of book-keeping, to suit the requirements of his business;—interest and exchange tables, and 'ready reckoners,' which can be used mechanically, supersede mental arithmetic, which gives its results with less rapidity than tables, and with dubious accuracy: commercial English, French, German and Spanish are all found to be widely different from the languages of the schools, and to consist of a sort of 'slang' with a most limited vocabulary; and—in fine—the best pupil of a 'commercial academy' is mortified and disappointed, on taking possession of his stool in a counting-house; to find himself practically useless, and decidedly of less value to his employers than an office-boy or a copying clerk, on whose education no money has been spent, but who has over him the advantage of a year or two's practical experience in the details of the office work.

In truth, a mercantile education cannot be gained in any other school but a shop or a warehouse; and the best advice we can give in reply to the appeal made to us is:—revive and extend the system of apprenticeship. As lightly sketched by the writer in the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpô*, and as remembered by the older men amongst us, when recalling the state of society at home thirty or forty years ago, this apprenticeship system was always a practical, and generally a pleasant method of learning a business. It certainly turned out more competent and thorough tradesmen and merchants, and more worthy citizens, than can be produced, either in Japan or elsewhere, under the new plan, which is very much the same in other countries as our Japanese friend describes to be now pursued here—of grown men going into business without passing through the necessary stage of pupillage. In our fathers' time, a child of twelve or thirteen, received into the family of a tradesman or merchant, and treated as son and servant at once, acquired rapidly what was of far more use to him than anything he could learn at a commercial academy,—habits of obedience, docility, promptitude, regularity of conduct, and order; he did not learn

the special business to which he was apprenticed,—he rather absorbed a knowledge of it insensibly and unconsciously; as a general rule, he had sufficient time at his disposal to enable him to acquire general knowledge,—to learn, perhaps, another language or two than his own; and it was certainly the rule, with very few exceptions, that he was encouraged and incited to self-improvement by both precept and example. From all we can learn of the Japanese inner life, much the same system appears, till lately, to have been practised here; all must have noticed the active, smart, well-bred youngsters who used to do so much of the work of serving customers in any respectable shop in Tôkiô or Osaka, evidently apprentices, and apparently well treated and happy; we learn with regret from the article we quote to-day, that this apprenticeship system is being abandoned, and that the bond which now unites master and shop-boy is merely the loose one of a money payment. As the Japanese writer says, this system is quite destructive of the hope of bringing up a new generation of worthy tradesmen: where the master's and servant's duties are limited to simple payment of money for simple service rendered, the tie is far looser than the old one, which bound the apprentice to the master by feelings of veneration and regard, and was strengthened by the semi-paternal authority exercised by the master over boys in whom he felt somewhat of a father's pride and interest.

From what our writer tells us, it would appear that one of the reasons that apprenticeship is falling into disuse is that a large number of *shizoku*, whose occupation is gone, and who find themselves cast on the world with but scant capital to represent their commuted pensions, are wishful to enter into trade, but are naturally averse to go through a drudgery of seven years' apprenticeship under masters belonging to a class which they despise, while they are compelled to enter it to gain a livelihood. It is natural enough that men so circumstanced should seek to get the knowledge they want from books: unhappily for them, it cannot be so procured. Their case is a hard one, and deserves far more sympathy than it usually receives. We have always been of opinion that this government was in error in creating its new army of *heimin*, instead of trusting the protection of the country to the *shizoku* class. We are fully aware of all the objections to the latter plan, and appreciate the motives which impelled the government into the course they chose; but the evils they dreaded are hardly worse than those of rebellion and discontent they have had to face, and have still by no means vanquished. They have drafted from the fields an army of peasants, the want of whose labour is severely felt, and they have upon their hands, that most dangerous of all classes, a suddenly disbanded impoverished, and discontented soldiery. What can these men do? They 'cannot dig, to beg they are ashamed': how to provide them with occupation and means of livelihood is the most difficult problem of all those which the rulers of this country have to solve. Both they and the unfortunate *shizoku* have the fullest sympathy of all friends of Japan; for until some satisfactory solution is arrived at, of the difficulty which oppresses both, there can be neither peace nor progress for the country, nor can there be content for the people. We cannot hope that the solution will be found in the *shizoku* being absorbed into the trading classes: but there are some trades, of course, for which a few of them are fitted. These they can enter; but their mysteries are not to be learnt from books, and nothing but apprenticeship, or some cognate form of servitude, will give them the special knowledge they require.

THE NEW CURRENCY.

WE HAVE now before us, in an article we quote to-day from the Japanese Press, what we have reason to know is a semi-official defence of the Government's

action with regard to the Trade Dollar of 420 grains, and an indication of the policy it contemplates pursuing in the future. We are not among those who seek for opportunities of decrying everything done by this Government, and we are always ready to give it credit of earnestness and zeal for the country's good. Unfortunately 'zeal,' more often than not, 'outruns discretion,' and the Government's action respecting its Mint has, throughout, appeared to us one of the many examples of zeal winning a race where the prize is loss. But however we may regret this, we cannot feel surprise. Nothing could be more natural, for instance, than that the Finance Minister and his colleagues in the Government should wish to disperse, as soon as possible, with the expensive foreign staff at first engaged for their Mint, and to run the machine themselves: their workmen had been proved sufficiently competent to turn out machinery—even the most delicate weighing machines—and their die-sinking and all other work left nothing to be desired. It should not be matter for surprise that they should fail to see that the intangible matter of their Mint's credit would be affected by the dismissal of the Foreign Director—nor can we wonder, now, that—after giving the proofs of the skill and trustworthiness of their present staff, afforded by repeated foreign testimonials of assay—they should resent the disinclination still shown by the China merchants to accept their coin without a foreign guarantee. Again, when some of their best men were commissioned to seek information in America and Europe on currency questions; what more natural than that they should return with erroneous views? The only 'popular' and intelligible definition of metaphysics that we have ever been able to obtain is, that it is 'a science which teaches one man to explain to another what he does not understand himself'; and when we consider how forcibly currency questions are affected by surrounding local circumstances and local interests, it is not to be wondered at that the Japanese seekers after economic truth should have returned without finding it. Utterly confused by the 'multitude of counsellors' from whom they extracted only opposing *dicta* of wisdom, which neutralized and contradicted each other, it is perfectly natural that they should have been reduced to give the preference in their decision to the numerical preponderance of the various opinions which they had collected,—which was in favour of gold. Their fault was—of course—in seeking for information abroad at all. They had here, in the then Manager of the Oriental Bank, Mr. John Robertson, a thoroughly capable, honest, and reliable financial Mentor. His long experience of the country had made him a far more efficient adviser for the Japanese, than any man, however eminent, in the worlds of theoretic or practical finance outside of Japan: and his honesty and friendly feeling had been fully proved in 1869, when he separated himself from the foreign mercantile community here on the '*nibu* question'—defied the Chamber of Commerce,—secured the powerful aid of the British Minister, and saved the country the expenditure of some millions of hard silver *bus*. His advice to them, on the establishment of the Mint, was to coin a silver dollar, equivalent in weight and fineness to the Mexican;—and he worked loyally for them in China and elsewhere, to assist in the establishment of their coin, to make it an acceptable legal tender throughout this part of the East. There is no reason to doubt that success would have very speedily rewarded perseverance in the path he had marked out; and it is most regrettable that the Government should have sought advice farther afield. But we have little reason to quarrel with the advisers they found, except in the case of certain American financial authorities, who advised them with the interest of America in view, which, on this question, is diametrically opposed to the interest of Japan. To the questions

they put, abstractedly, they got the answer in the abstract—on which all financiers agree—that of the two metallic *media* of exchange, gold is preferable. No regard was had, by either questioners or respondents, to the modifying, surrounding circumstances of Japan, China, and Oriental racial prejudice. The failure of our own attempt to force a gold currency on India was entirely overlooked, though, in all conscience, obvious enough. Therefore—the balance of American and European opinion being—as our friend of the *Tôkiô Economist* tells us, in favour of gold—that metal was made the standard here.

The record of the Japanese gold currency, from the coinage of the first gold piece to that of the last, has been one uninterrupted story of disaster and loss. If the Government could have made their gold the only standard, they might have succeeded in establishing it, and in affording what England would have greeted as a most useful example to her Indian subjects. But the Mexican dollar, the treaty standard coin, occupied the vantage ground of custom and prejudice, and the gold *yen* never had a chance. Now, establishing a third legal tender, the 420 grain Trade Dollar, the Government virtually tells us, through the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpô*, that it intends ceasing to coin gold. This is well, but two standards will still remain, and the government is no nearer than before to its object—the substitution of Japanese for Mexican coin as a medium of exchange in this part of the world.

But that we should have such a manifesto as that which we are reviewing is a great advantage; for now—for the first time—we have before us a distinct statement of argument and assumed fact, and have no longer to beat the air in fighting against rumour and supposition. The position taken up by the Government is this. The U. S. Trade dollar is not favourably received in China and adjacent countries; a sufficiency of Mexican dollars for the wants of the trade is not always easily attainable, by reason of the distance from China of the source of supply; and the British Government is averse to re-establishing a Mint in Hongkong, to coin a British Dollar. In addition to these circumstances, the Government believes that some foreign Bankers and merchants are 'working indirectly to get the Japanese Trade Dollar' established. Therefore, with these advantages in its favour, 'it may be expected' they say, 'that it will overcome all others and become the only current coin in all Oriental countries.'

Here we have a grain of truth in a large measure of mistakes. The American Trade Dollar cannot gain a footing in China, for just the same reason—a reason which the Japanese financial mind is as yet, apparently, unable to grasp—that the Japanese trade dollar will fail:—that it is a better coin than the Mexican. That the supply of Mexican dollars is unequal to the demand is of course a fallacy—pure and simple—probably the offspring of the sudden rise in exchange, two years ago, when the market was for six weeks bare of coin to meet a very sudden rush of the buyers of silk. That the British Government has declined to coin a British Dollar for use in China at the Royal Mint in London is true; but if the Japan Mint will not turn out the coin required, Hongkong itself, or Birmingham, or some other centre of capital and enterprise will. The establishment is now suggested of a Mint at Saigon. And finally, that foreigners are anxious, or trying, to establish the Japanese Trade Dollar in the China trade is again a mistake. The Dollar which Mr. Robertson would have established was the silver *yen*, identical with the Mexican dollar in everything but design, in which it was superior. This is the coin required in the trade now, the coin which foreigners will assist in establishing; and until the Japanese Government is convinced of this, and allows the Osaka Mint to produce such a coin, it must not hope that Japan will take the place of Mexico.

It is not necessary for us, we fear, to discuss the question raised in the last paragraph of the article under review: how the new Trade Dollar is to push the Mexican out of circulation here. Its excess in weight, of course, would prevent this in Japan as in China—but we see no present likelihood of dollars being coined at all, to any great extent. We cannot congratulate the Government on the success of the Internal Loan and, to all appearance, the metallic reserves are exhausted. It is fortunate for the Government that its paper is taken with such confidence by the people, and so long as the harvests continue to be up to average, we see no reason to fear difficulty in paying the interest on foreign debt. The excess of imports over exports is a satisfactory proof that the country makes an enormous profit on the latter, and so long as a piece of paper will buy as much food as the piece of silver or gold it stands for, no other medium of exchange is wanted for internal trade. And for the foreign trade, the Mexican dollars now in circulation appear to suffice. We should prefer a more stable coin, of course, and suffer from its absence;—but the 'shroffage' falls mainly on the Japanese, and makes our own Chinese labour very cheap to us. We can get on with it, failing a better. But if the Japanese want to get rid of the Mexican incubus, and to compete successfully in China for Mexico's profits in the coin business, they must abandon the idea of coining a 420 grain Dollar and substitute for it, in Notifications 12 and 13, the 'silver yen.' And the sooner this is done, the better for all concerned.

WE have to put on record the following Notification respecting the new Forestry Laws supplementary to that numbered 4a and published on the 14th March. The new clauses appear to be necessary and quite unobjectionable, as without them, a door was clearly left open to fraud.

NOTIFICATION BY THE NAIMUSHO,
(HOME OFFICE.)

No. 14a. 3rd day, 6th month, 11th year of
Meiji (3rd June 1878.)

"It is hereby notified that all who apply to the Government in accordance with Notification No. 4a. of the 3rd month of this year, publishing the 'Regulations relating to Tithed Plantations of Woods,' must observe the following additional clauses, and not violate them.

(Signed) ITO HIROBUMI,
(Minister for Home Affairs.)

1.—"Those persons who, having obtained permission to lease Government lands on accordance with the 'Regulations &c.' secretly lend the same to other parties, pledge, or mortgage the lands without complying with the forms prescribed in Clause X. of the Regulations * :—

2.—"All persons who do not commence planting after one entire year has elapsed since they got their leases (except where, as provided for in the Regulations permission to plant a very large tract is given, and three years allowed for the work):—

3.—"All persons who shall, even within the limit of a year, employ the ground for other purposes than that for which it was granted, viz. tree-planting:—

4.—"All persons who, though their intentions may be evident, having leased one piece of ground (A) sow seed in other ground (B) with the purpose of transplanting into A the saplings; and fail so do so within three entire years after the date of their leases:—

5.—"All such persons, who act in violation of the Regulations in the manner above set forth, will at once be deprived of their land and anything attached thereto, and will be required to pay a sum of money equivalent to the amount of ground rent during the period of their occu-

* Clause X. of the Regulations provides that in such cases the holder is to apply for permission to the local Government office, giving full particulars in each case; and the name of the transferee or mortgagee is to be then endorsed on the lease.

pancy, from the date of their lease being granted to that of their deprivation thereof. And all persons who may borrow or receive in pawn or pledge, as forbidden in Clause 1 of these additional regulations, will be for ever after incapacitated from holding Government lands on lease under these Regulations.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE summer is rapidly approaching, and, with the mournful experience of last year fresh as it should be in our recollection, we ought early to bestir ourselves to prevent the appearance amongst us of epidemic disease, which is a much better plan than making only provision for its cure. We very strongly recommend all householders to read carefully a letter of Mr. Brunton's which was addressed to this newspaper in 1869 and which appears to us to require reproduction now. We therefore reprint it in another page of this number. Many residents, with the laudable idea of keeping their compounds clean, are—we regret to hear, running subsidiary pipes into the street drains, without making any provision of the necessary volume of water to carry off solid offensive matter. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon our fellow-townsmen that this is very dangerous and harmful, and likely to produce exactly the evils they mean to obviate. The system of pipes laid down by Mr. Brunton was for 'storm drains' and they are intended to carry off, of themselves, surface water only. Provision was made, of which householders could avail themselves, to relieve their compounds of house-sewage, but only on the condition of their arranging for a sufficient supply of water, to be discharged at the same time as the solid matter, to keep this in suspension. Any householder who has connected his kitchen and other out-houses with the 'storm-drains' without making this necessary provision for flushing, has therefore done that which, sooner or later, will end in choking the drain, thereby creating a source of poisonous gases, and a poisonous drainage into his own or his neighbours' wells. The first thing to which a Sanitary Committee should direct its attention here is this matter. Mr. Brunton's drains have been laid down now over eight years: they have never received any repair and we know that some of them are already choked: he wrote in his letter in 1869 most truly "In Yokohama the materials for the production of disease may be said to be perfect, and under the circumstances it is astonishing it has escaped so well." We saw last year that we can no longer depend on escaping scot-free,—and though we are very far from being alarmists, and if cholera were actually amongst us, should refrain as far as possible from writing on the subject;—now, while we are yet free from disease, and have time granted to us to take precautions against an outbreak, we cannot too strongly urge the adoption of the necessary measures. And amongst the most necessary, are those pointed out in the letter which we reprint, to prevent the choking of the street drains.

We regret to note, by the way, that—though months have elapsed since the site for the Hospital for Infectious Diseases was reported to have been selected: nothing has been done towards building it.

WE do not hear, since the promulgation of the new Forestry laws, of any waste lands having been taken up by the people for the purpose of re-planting with wood. Nor do we see on the part of the Government, any efforts being made in this direction; though it is believed that a portion of the new Internal Loan is to be devoted to this purpose. While, on the other hand, accounts continue to reach us of clearances of forest land still going on in Hokkaido. It might have been thought that the very strong evidence of the folly of disafforestation and of its most disastrous ultimate consequence—nothing less than the actual depopulation of the country—which are now being exhibited in the neighbouring empire of China, would have had the effect of rousing this Government to take immediate remedial measures; or at all events, to issue stringent orders to check the growth of the malady—to stop all wood-cutting except under proper, skilled direction. Apparently this has not been the case. The people here feel no very perceptible ill effects from the denudation of the hills, or are unable to trace occasional inundation, or

gradual dessication, to this as a source of the evil, while they think—perhaps—that the condition of their country is so far different to that which they hear of as the state of China, that it is impossible for them ever to be reduced to the same distress.

Another country, however, respecting which the Japanese by no means lack information, is now affording her an example of the consequences of disafforestation at an earlier stage of the process of decay. The destruction of the woods, and neglect to replant them, has done vast injury to the once rich corn-lands of Russia, which stretch for so many miles on either side of the great river Volga: so much so that now the Russian government is forced to give its most serious attention to the matter. A series of successive short crops on the wide straths of land around Samara and in other districts demonstrate the existence of a growing evil, and call for immediate cure. The people have become so impoverished, as to have required to be supported, during the past winter, mainly by Government. Their distress and privations have been excessive, and the evil is distinctly traceable to the destruction of the woods which protected the head waters of the Volga and its tributary streams. This, the great riverine artery of the Russian empire, has become variable in its character. The level of its wide waters, during the summer and autumnal months, sinks so far below that of former years, as seriously to interfere with navigation; while, during the rainy season, it rises so rapidly as to do damage by flood. To restore it to its proper condition, and to regulate its affluents and influents, to strengthen its banks by planting, and to protect its sources by reclothing the hills with wood, will require expenditure which at present Russia can ill afford; but which must be made soon, lest worse troubles eventuate. Already climatic change has been induced by the reckless clearances of the woods, and not only have the corn crops been diminished in quantity, but the character of the grain has been injured; so that, in England, Russian wheat is now complained of, on account of the lightness and inferiority of most samples. Of course the drain on her labour and treasure set up by a long and costly war adds to the difficulty of doing the indicated work; but if parts of Russia are not to become like those provinces of China the depopulation which we are now watching, the work must be done and the mischief repaired without delay. Parts of Japan are in an earlier stage, but only in an earlier stage, of deterioration; the process of decay has commenced and '*vires acquirit eundo*;' the rulers of the country should be warned by others' misfortunes and take, in time, the necessary steps to protect the people against the scarcity which will culminate in famine and death.

A NUMBER of arrests have been made of men cognizant of, or accessory to, the murder of the late Home Minister. The native papers tell us of two persons having been arrested in Kochi *ken*, three in Kumamoto, three in Yamaguchi, one in Hiroshima, and seven in Hiogo *kens*. These appear to be distinct from the arrests we mentioned last week as having been made in Ishikawa *ken*, whence came five of the assassins, and would seem to indicate the existence of a secret society. It behoves the surviving Ministers to take due care of themselves, and we earnestly hope that the precautions which have been initiated, in the shape of guards and patrols, will not soon be relaxed.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* (semi-official journal) tells us that H. E. Mori, who has just returned from Peking, will be appointed Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and that H. E. Tanaka, now Vice-Minister for Education, will proceed to take Mori's place as Ambassador to China. Also that the Mikado, before starting on his Northern progress, will visit Kanagawa and Shizuoka *kens*. This will give foreign visitors an opportunity of seeing his Imperial Majesty.

H. E. Sano Tsunetami is to be the Minister to Italy, says the *Uochi Shimbun*; but we note that our contemporary the *Gazette* gives this appointment to Yamawo Yozo, at present Vice-Minister of Public Works.

The Bill lately passed by the *Chihokwan Kuwaigi*, providing for the establishment of Provincial Synods, which we commented on at length in our last issue, has now we hear passed the Genrō-in, and an Edict embodying it will be published in a few days. We publish to-day some sup-

plementary clauses to the new Forestry laws promulgated last March.

THOSE of our readers who are concerned in the Tea trade will read with much interest the remarks on the new season's crop, and on the Yokohama Tea trade generally, which are embodied in an article which we translate from the *Chingai Bulka Shimpō*, and print in another column. Very important is the writer's admission of the deterioration in the quality of the new teas and his argument accounting for this appears sensible and correct. We may strengthen his appeal to his countrymen to improve the quality by more careful picking and preparation by putting into his hands a very important argument which he has omitted to use. Japan uncoloured teas are by no means the only teas of the class which America receives, to say nothing of the widely different Indian and Chinese Black teas: whereas Japan has no other markets open to her than those of the United States. In such a state of things as this, it is clear that the buyer has all the advantage on his side. And, pushing further his argument of the reaction, back and forward, of low price on low quality, and low quality on low price; precisely the same damaging process goes on with respect to demand and supply. The Japanese offers his American Customer a worse and worse sample of tea, in exchange for a lower and lower price, but meanwhile, the customer looks out for an article from elsewhere which suits him better, and consequently—as the quality falls, so falls also the demand. As we showed lately, Japan teas have now a most formidable rival in the American markets in Formosa Oolongs; and if the quality of Japan tea is allowed to go on sinking, it will, ere long, be pushed out of the market altogether. If what this Japanese writer tells us is true—viz: that labour is so scarce and dear in the country, (and we believe him to be quite right) it is clear that the only plan to adopt is to grow less tea. Then, increased care in picking and preparation will soon bring up the price again, and the reduced export—of finer quality—will stimulate demand.

His remarks on Black Tea are not of much value. We have reason to know that he is correct enough in his quotation of London valuations: those put on the small samples sent hitherto have ranged from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. and 1s. 6d.; but are natives willing to sell at prices here that will leave the shipper a margin on these figures, after packing, leading, loss of weight and other charges are taken into account? Assuredly his market quotations here of \$37 and \$38 to \$50 per picul leave no such margin. He must not deceive himself with respect to these prices, which are only given for small fancy packages. And we most earnestly trust that the teamen are not going to be led into the terrible disaster of shipping largely to London on their own account, before the market has been tried by means of small trial shipments. Foreign shippers are not likely to set them the example.

WE have been exceedingly surprised that none of our daily contemporaries have reproduced Lord Salisbury's Despatch on the Eastern Question and Prince Gortschakoff's reply; and we therefore place these most interesting State papers before our readers. They have all the more interest now that we know that the Congress is actually going to meet; because we may be certain that the basis of negotiations at that assembly is formulated in the British state-paper. On no other terms than the temporary abrogation of the Treaty of San Stefano, and its full discussion by all the Powers interested, would England have gone into Congress at all; and that Lord Beaconsfield should have succeeded to gaining such a point is a splendid diplomatic triumph.

THE TREATY AND THE CONGRESS.

(From 'The Times' of April 2.)

THE following circular despatch, addressed by the Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies, was issued from the Foreign Office yesterday:—

"Foreign Office, April 1, 1878.

"My Lord (Sir),—I have received the Queen's commands to request your Excellency to explain to the Government to which you are accredited the course which Her Majesty's Government have thought it their duty to pursue

in reference to the Preliminaries of Peace concluded between the Ottoman and Russian Governments, and to the European Congress which it has been proposed to hold for the examination of that treaty.

"On the 14th of January, in view of the reports which had reached Her Majesty's Government as to the negotiations for peace which were about to be opened between the Russian Government and the Porte, and in order to avoid any possible misconception, Her Majesty's Government instructed Lord A. Loftus to state to Prince Gortchakoff that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, any treaty concluded between the Government of Russia and the Porte affecting the Treaties of 1856 and 1871 must be an European treaty, and would not be valid without the assent of the Powers who were parties to those treaties.

"On the 25th of January the Russian Government replied by the assurance that they did not intend to settle by themselves ('isolément') European questions having reference to the peace which is to be made ('se rattachant à la paix').

"Her Majesty's Government, having learnt that the bases of peace had been arranged between the Turkish and Russia delegates at Kezanlik, instructed Lord A. Loftus, on the 29th of January, to state to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government, while recognizing any arrangements made by the Russia and Turkish delegates at Kezanlik for the conclusion of an armistice and for the settlement of bases of peace as binding between the two belligerents, declared that in so far as these arrangements were calculated to modify European Treaties and to affect general and British interests, Her Majesty's Government were unable to recognize in them any validity unless they were made the subject of a formal agreement among the parties to the Treaty of Paris.

"On the 30th of January Lord A. Loftus communicated this declaration to Prince Gortchakoff, and his Highness replied that to effect an armistice certain bases of peace were necessary, but they were only to be considered as preliminaries and not definitive as regarded Europe; and stated categorically that questions bearing on European interests would be concerted with European Powers, and that he had given Her Majesty's Government clear and positive assurances to this effect.

"On the 4th of February the Austrian Ambassador communicated a telegram inviting Her Majesty's Government to a Conference at Vienna, and Her Majesty's Government at once accepted the proposal.

"On the 5th of February his Excellency addressed a formal invitation to Lord Derby, stating that:—

"L'Autriche-Hongrie, en sa qualité de puissance signataire des actes internationaux qui ont eu pour objet de régler le système politique en Orient, a toujours réservé, en présence de la guerre actuelle, sa part d'influence sur le règlement définitif des conditions de la paix future.

"Le Gouvernement Impérial de la Russie, auquel nous avons fait part de ce point de vue, l'a pleinement apprécié.

"Aujourd'hui que des Préliminaires de Paix viennent d'être signés entre la Russie et la Turquie le moment nous semble venu d'établir l'accord de l'Europe sur les modifications qu'il deviendrait nécessaire d'apporter aux traités susmentionnés.

"Le mode le plus apte à amener cette entente nous paraît être la réunion d'une Conférence des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris de 1856 et du Protocole de Londres de 1871."

"On the 9th inst. the Austrian Government proposed that instead of the Conference at Baden-Baden, as previously contemplated, a Congress should be assembled at Berlin. Her Majesty's Government replied that they had no objection to this change, but that they considered that it would be desirable to have it understood in the first place that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey should be considered as subject to be discussed in the Congress, and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers."

"On the 12th of March Count Beust was told that Her Majesty's Government must be perfectly clear on the points mentioned in the letter to him of the 9th inst. before they could definitively agree to go into Congress.

"On the 13th Her Majesty's Government explained further the first condition.

"That they must distinctly understand before they can enter into Congress that every article in the treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what articles require acceptance or concurrence by the several Powers, and what do not."

"On the 14th the Russian Ambassador communicated the following telegram from Prince Gortchakoff:—

"Toutes les Grandes Puissances savent déjà que le texte complet du Traité Préliminaire de Paix avec la Porte leur sera communiqué dès que les ratifications auront été échangées, ce que ne saurait tarder. Il sera simultanément publié ici. Nous n'avons rien à cacher."

"On the 17th, Lord A. Loftus reported that he had received the following Memorandum from Prince Gortchakoff:—

"In reply to a communication made by Lord A. Loftus of the despatch by which Lord Derby has replied to the proposal of Count Beust relating to the meeting of the Congress at Berlin, I have the honour to repeat the assurance which Count Schouvaloff has been already charged to give to Her Majesty's Government—viz., that the Preliminary Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey shall be textually communicated to the Great Powers before the meeting of the Congress, and that in the Congress itself each Power will have the full liberty of its appreciations and of its actions."

"In a despatch received on the 18th Lord A. Loftus stated that Prince Gortchakoff had said to him that of course he could not impose silence on any member of the Congress, but he could only accept a discussion on those portions of the treaty which affected European interests.

"Lord Derby having asked Count Schouvaloff for a reply from Prince Gortchakoff, his Excellency informed him on the 19th that he was 'charged to represent to Her Majesty's Government that the Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey, the only one which existed, for there was no secret engagement, would be communicated to the Government of the Queen in its entirety, and long before ('bien avant') the assembling of the Congress. The Government of the Queen, in like manner as the other Great Powers, reserved to themselves at the Congress their full liberty of appreciation and action. This same liberty, which she did not dispute to others, Russia claimed for herself. Now, it would be to restrict her, if, alone among all the Powers, Russia contracted a preliminary engagement."

"On the 21st Lord Derby replied that Her Majesty's Government could not recede from the position already clearly defined by them; that they must distinctly understand, before they could enter into Congress, that every article in the treaty between Russia and Turkey would be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it might be considered what articles required acceptance or concurrence by the other Powers and what did not.

Her Majesty's Government were unable to accept the view now put forward by Prince Gortchakoff that the freedom of opinion and action in Congress of Russia, more than of any other Power, would be restricted by this preliminary understanding.

"Her Majesty's Government therefore desired to ask whether the Government of Russia were willing that the communication of the treaty *en entier* to the various Powers should be treated as a placing of the treaty before the Congress, in order that the whole treaty, in its relation to existing treaties, might be examined and considered by the Congress.

"On the 26th Count Schouvaloff wrote to Lord Derby that the Imperial Cabinet deemed it its duty to adhere to the declaration which he was ordered to make to the Government of the Queen, and which was stated in the letter which he had the honour to address to him dated the 19th of March.

"As different interpretations had been given to the 'liberty of appreciation and action' which Russia thought it right to reserve to herself at the Congress, the Imperial Cabinet defined the meaning of the term in the following manner:—

"It leaves to the other Powers the liberty of raising such questions at the Congress as they might think it fit to discuss, and reserves to itself the liberty of accepting or not accepting the discussion of these questions."

"Her Majesty's Government deeply regret the decision which the Russian Government have thus announced.

"How far the stipulations of the Treaty of San Stefano would commend themselves as expedient to the judgment of the European Powers it is not at present possible to decide. But even if a considerable portion of them were such as were likely to be approved, the reservation of a right, at discretion, to refuse to accept a discussion of them in a Congress of the Powers would not on that account be the less open to the most serious objection. An inspection of the treaty will sufficiently show that Her Majesty's Government could not, in a European Congress, accept any partial or fragmentary examination of its provisions. Every material stipulation which it contains involves a departure from the Treaty of 1856.

"By the declaration annexed to the first Protocol of the Conference held in London in 1871, the Plenipotentiaries of the Great Powers, including Russia, recognized 'that it is an essential principle of the law of nations that no Power can liberate itself from the engagements of a treaty, nor modify the stipulations thereof, unless with the consent of the Contracting Powers by means of an amicable arrangement.'

"It is impossible for Her Majesty's Government, without violating the spirit of this Declaration, to acquiesce in the withdrawal from the cognizance of the Powers of articles in the new treaty which are modifications of existing treaty engagements, and inconsistent with them.

"The general nature of the treaty and the combined effect of its several stipulations upon the interests of the Signatory Powers furnish another and a conclusive reason against the separate discussion of any one portion of those stipulations apart from the rest.

"The most important consequences to which the treaty practically leads are those which result from its action, as a whole, upon the nations of South-Eastern Europe. By the articles erecting the new Bulgaria, a strong Slav State will be created under the auspices and control of Russia possessing important harbours upon the shores of the Black Sea and the Archipelago, and conferring upon that Power a preponderating influence over both political and commercial relations in those seas. It will be so constituted as to merge in the dominant Slav majority a considerable mass of population which is Greek in race and sympathy, and which views with alarm the prospect of absorption in a community alien to it not only in nationality but in political tendency and in religious allegiance. The provisions by which this new State is to be subjected to a ruler whom Russia will practically choose, its administration framed by a Russian Commissary, and the first working of its institution commenced under the control of a Russian army, sufficiently indicate the political system of which in future it is to form a part.

"Stipulations are added which will extend this influence even beyond the boundaries of the new Bulgaria. The provision, in itself highly commendable, of improved institutions for the populations of Thessaly and Epirus, is accompanied by a condition that the law by which they are to be secured shall be framed under the supervision of the Russian Government. It is followed by engagements for the protection of members of the Russian Church, which are certainly not more limited in their scope than those articles of the Treaty of Kainardji upon which the claims were founded which were abrogated in 1856. Such stipulations cannot be viewed with satisfaction either by the Government of Greece or by the Powers to whom all parts of the Ottoman Empire are a matter of common interest. The general effect of this portion of the treaty will be to increase the power of the Russian Empire in the countries and on the shores where a Greek population dominates, not only to the prejudice of that nation, but also of every country having interests in the east of the Mediterranean Sea.

"The territorial severance from Constantinople of the Greek, Albanian, and Slavonic provinces which are still left under the Government of the Porte will cause their administration to be attended with constant difficulty, and even embarrassment; and will not only deprive the Porte of the political strength which might have arisen from their possession, but will expose the inhabitants to a serious risk of anarchy.

"By the other portions of the treaty analogous results are arrived at upon other frontiers of the Ottoman Empire.

The compulsory alienation of Bessarabia from Roumania, the extension of Bulgaria to the shores of the Black Sea, which are principally inhabited by Mussulmans and Greeks, and the acquisition of the important harbour of Batoum, will make the will of the Russian Government dominant over all the vicinity of the Black Sea. The acquisition of the strongholds of Armenia will place the population of that province under the immediate influence of the Power which holds them; while the extensive European trade which now passes from Trebizond to Persia will, in consequence of the cessions in Kurdistan, be liable to be arrested at the pleasure of the Russian Government by the prohibitory barriers of their commercial system.

"Provision is made for an indemnity, of which the amount is obviously beyond the means of Turkey to discharge, even if the fact be left out of account that any surplus of its revenues is already hypothecated to other creditors. The mode of payment of this indemnity is left, in vague language, to ulterior negotiations between Russia and the Porte. Payment may be demanded immediately, or it may be left as an unredeemed and unredeemable obligation to weigh down the independence of the Porte for many years. Its discharge may be commuted into a yet larger cession of territory, or it may take the form of special engagements subordinating in all things the policy of Turkey to that of Russia. It is impossible not to recognize in this provision an instrument of formidable efficacy for the coercion of the Ottoman Government, if the necessity for employing it should arise.

"Objections may be urged individually against these various stipulations; and arguments, on the other hand, may possibly be advanced to show that they are not individually inconsistent with the attainment of the lasting peace and stability which it is the highest object of all present negotiations to establish in the provinces of European and Asiatic Turkey. But their separate and individual operation, whether defensible or not, is not that which should engage the most earnest attention of the Signatory Powers. Their combined effect, in addition to the results upon the Greek population and upon the balance of maritime power which have been already pointed out, is to depress, almost to the point of entire subjection, the political independence of the Government of Constantinople. The formal jurisdiction of that Government extends over geographical positions which must, under all circumstances, be of the deepest interest to Great Britain. It is in the power of the Ottoman Government to close or to open the Straits which form the natural highway of nations between the Aegean Sea and the Euxine. Its dominion is recognized at the head of the Persian Gulf, on the shores of the Levant, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the Suez Canal. It cannot be otherwise than a matter of extreme solicitude to this country that the Government to which this jurisdiction belongs should be so closely pressed by the political outposts of a greatly superior Power that its independent action, and even existence, is almost impossible. These results arise not so much from the language of any single article in the treaty as from the operation of the instrument as a whole. A discussion limited to articles selected by one Power in the Congress would be an illusory remedy for the dangers to English interests and to the permanent peace of Europe, which would result from the state of things which the treaty proposes to establish.

"The object of Her Majesty's Government at the Constantinople Conference was to give effect to the policy of reforming Turkey under the Ottoman Government, removing well-grounded grievances, and thus preserving the Empire until the time when it might be able to dispense with protective guarantees. It was obvious that this could only be brought about by rendering the different populations so far contented with their position as to inspire them with a spirit of patriotism, and make them ready to defend the Ottoman Empire as loyal subjects of the Sultan.

"This policy was frustrated by the unfortunate resistance of the Ottoman Government itself, and, under the altered circumstances of the present time, the same result cannot be attained to the same extent by the same means. Large changes may, and no doubt will, be requisite in the treaties by which South-Eastern Europe has hitherto been ruled. But good government, assured peace, and freedom, for populations to whom those blessings have been strange, are still the objects which this country earnestly desires to secure.

"In requiring a full consideration of the general interests which the new arrangements threaten to affect, Her Majesty's Governments believe that they are taking the surest means of securing those objects. They would willingly have entered a Congress in which the stipulations in question could have been examined as a whole, in their relation to existing treaties, to the acknowledged rights of Great Britain and of other Powers, and to the beneficent ends which the united action of Europe has always been directed to secure. But neither the interests which Her Majesty's Government are specially bound to guard nor the well-being of the regions with which the treaty deals would be consulted by the assembling of a Congress whose deliberations were to be restricted by such reservations as those which have been laid down by Prince Gortchakoff in his most recent communication.

"Your Excellency will read this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and give him a copy of it.

"I am, &c.,

"SALISBURY."

PRINCE GORTCHAKOFF'S REPLY.

(From a London paper of April 11.)

The reply of Prince Gortchakoff to the Circular of the Marquis of Salisbury has been telegraphed from St. Petersburg, and is, of course, of the utmost importance at the present moment. It was indeed scarcely expected so soon, there being a notion that it would be withheld until the Russian Chancellor had made himself acquainted with the general tone of the debates in the English Parliament. But this has not been considered necessary. The reply consists of twelve articles. Its tone is moderate, and even conciliatory; and takes up in due order the principal points and objections raised by our Foreign Minister—combating their objections, but iterating and reiterating that Russia had no thought of excluding Europe from considering the entire plan as sketched in the preliminary Treaty of San Stefano.

The first article deals with Bulgaria, and declares Lord Salisbury's assertion incorrect that the Treaty of San Stefano has created a new Bulgaria. It is said to be equally incorrect to say that the new State will be a Slav province, under the control of Russia. Bulgaria exists already; and the Treaty of San Stefano has only rendered obligatory the consent of Turkey to a programme of reform more complete, more precise, and more practical than that adopted by the Constantinople Conference. The fact of the Treaty being preliminary showed that it dealt only with the question of principles, without pre-judging the definite application of those principles, which was a matter requiring technical study. Many of the articles of the Treaty had been left vague, which left room for ulterior understanding about modifications which might be judged indispensable. The second article denies that the new province is placed under the control of Russia. It will be exactly in the same position as Moldavia and Wallachia in 1830. The third article deals with the length of the Russian occupation. It says the maximum term of two years had been assigned for a provisional occupation, because it was considered necessary for peace, order, and protection to the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants; but that time was only approximate, and, therefore, Russia was ready to abridge it so far as the task she had undertaken and the general peace would permit. The fourth article states that the delimitation of Bulgaria was only fixed in general terms, and defends the extension of the province to the Black and Aegean Seas as necessary for the commercial prosperity of Bulgaria. The fifth article denies that the new Prince of Bulgaria will in any way be chosen under pressure from Russia. He is to be elected by the native administrative council, with the consent of the Porte and Europe. The sixth article takes exception to the statement that Russian influence is extended by the stipulations regard to Epirus and Thessaly. If Russia had not asked for something in favour of these provinces, she would be accused of sacrificing the interests of the Greeks to those of the Slavs. If she had proposed in their behalf a vassal autonomy, she would be censured as destroying the Ottoman Empire, and implanting Russian influence. Russia had only acted in the spirit of that protectorate mission which history had assigned to her in the East. Article 7 defends the provision made in favour of the Russian Church. Article 8

deals with the retrocession of Bessarabia. It denies that this demand can interfere with the freedom of the navigation of the Danube, since that is now placed under an international agreement. Besides, the retrocession demanded does not include the whole of Bessarabia ceded in 1856. The Delta of the Danube is excluded, and the intention of the Russian Government is to return it to Roumania, from whom it had been retaken in 1857. This circumstance considerably reduced the importance of the retrocession with regard to its influence on the navigation of the Danube. Article 9 defends the acquisition of Batoum as the only port in that region convenient for Russian commerce. The tenth article is not included in the published document, probably owing to some mistake of the telegraph. Article 11 deals with the question of the indemnity. It defends the indefinite terms on that point on the ground that immediate payment would interfere with the rights of other creditors of the Porte, and would deprive Russia of the guarantee on the part of Turkey for the observance of her pledges which was necessary. Article 12 deals with the assertion that the San Stefano Treaty infringes existing treaties, and points out the many instances in which these Treaties have already been violated. First, they were infringed by Turkey's non-fulfilment of her pledges, then by the Principalities, then by the French occupation of Syria, next by the Constantinople Conference itself, which was an interference with the independence of the Ottoman Empire; and lastly by the question of the Straits. Finally, a complaint is made in this article that Lord Salisbury's despatch proposes no alternative to the policy it attacks.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or sentiments of Correspondents. No notice can be taken of anonymous letters; whatever is intended for insertion under this heading must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE MITSU BISHI COMPANY. II.

To the Editor of the Japan Times.

Sir,

If you will grant me sufficient space, I purpose reviewing the position and prospects of the Mitsu Bishi Company, and will endeavour to point out the inefficient manner in which the affairs of the Company have been managed and the detrimental effect the same is having on the trade of the country, injuring instead of benefitting the development of the coast trade and defeating the object the sagacious statesmen who established this Company had in view.

The Shanghai branch line of the Pacific Mail Co. was purchased in its entirety by the Mitsu Bishi Company in 1875 after the settlement of the Formosa question.

Iwasaki and his brother mysteriously leaped into prominence and undertook the management of the Company; all that had been known of them previously was, that they had been interested in some small "rattle trap" steamers running between Osaka and Tosa.

For a sum of about 800,000 yen the Mitsu Bishi Company acquired the following steamers

<i>Costa Rica</i>	now	<i>Genkai Maru.</i>
<i>New York</i>	"	<i>Tokio Maru.</i>
<i>Nevada</i>	"	<i>Saikio Maru.</i>
<i>Oregonian</i>	"	<i>Nagoya Maru.</i>
<i>Golden Age</i>	"	<i>Hiroshima Maru.</i>

and in addition, a fine property in Shanghai including offices godowns, wharves, &c. at present valued at some \$150,000, also iron store-ships at Nagasaki and Kobe together with moorings, buoys, &c.

Commencing with such a bargain and a mail subsidy of some \$20,000 per month, for carrying on an average about thirty bags of mails, a distance of some 1,200 miles, and with an efficient and peculiarly adapted fleet, nothing but prosperity appeared to await the Company's undertaking.

Everything was in its favour: the Satsuma rebellion of last year is stated to have added no less a sum than 5,000,000 yen to the Company's receipts, for services extending over some nine months only. The mail line to Shanghai continued running without interruption during the rebellion and the services rendered by the Company to the War Department, as an equivalent for the above amount, was performed by the

outside steamers of the Company, these vessels also being supplied with coal at the expense of the War Department, so that the earnings of these steamers must have been almost clear profit.

The following is a list of the Company's steamers that were principally employed during the war: the aggregate value of the lot as they stand being not over 650,000 *yen*, so that if the amount stated above is correct, the M. B. Co. received 8 times the value of the vessels employed.

Masilia, Engines & boilers useless, now a hulk.

<i>Chihli</i> , " "	" "	
<i>Dumbarton</i> , " "	" "	
<i>Madras</i> , " "	" "	
<i>Tsuru</i> , Engines & boilers in bad order	7,000 pels. capacity	
<i>Nymph</i> , " "	8,500 "	
<i>Kathleen</i> , " "	4,500 "	
<i>Min</i> , " fair order	16,000 "	
<i>Migoto</i> , " in bad order	7,500 "	
<i>Kiushiu</i> , " since repaired	15,000 "	
<i>Orissa</i> , " "	5,000 "	
<i>Sakuma</i> , " "	4,500 "	
<i>Columbine</i> , " "	8,500 "	
<i>Vulcan</i> , " "	3,000 "	
<i>Coquette</i> , " "	7,000 "	
<i>Coila</i> , " since repaired	10,000 "	
<i>City of Hankow</i> , " "	4,000 "	
<i>Shifeshire</i> , " in fair order	9,000 "	
<i>Charles Albert</i> , " "	16,000 "	
<i>Sumida</i> , " in fair order	16,000 "	
<i>Shoyleen</i> , " in bad order, now a hulk	9,000 "	
<i>Muriel</i> , " in fair order	14,000 "	
<i>Acantha</i> , " in bad order, now-re-	[pairing 13,000 "	
<i>Fantai</i> , " in fair order	14,000 "	
<i>Lucon</i> , " in good order	12,000 "	

This fleet was increased last year by the purchase of the following steamers, in England, but very few of these vessels arrived in time to be of actual service during the war.

	Tons.	Built in	Purchased at about
<i>Montgomeryshire</i>	1,146	1873	\$175,000.00
<i>King Richard</i>	1,133	1875	\$175,000.00
<i>Gadshill</i>	1,240	1875	\$175,000.00
<i>Duna</i>	752	1871	\$130,000.00
<i>Lotus</i>	1,407	1873	\$210,000.00
<i>Candia</i>	1,348	1854	\$150,000.00

Not one of these steamers, in my opinion, is suitable either for the Japan or China coast trade. They are all, comparatively speaking, as times go, costly vessels; not economical, either as regards working, consumption of fuel, or general handiness.

In contra-distinction to them in these respects, there are now on the China coast, new first class steamers which carry almost as much "dead-weight" as any of the above steamers, on a light draught of water, with a consumption of eight tons of coal, and average speed of nine knots: and these cost about half what the above steamers cost, and are worked at one half the expense.

The recent additions to the Mitsu Bishi Company are not new, but comparatively old vessels, for the boilers of the *Duna* are worn out, and those of the *Montgomeryshire*, *Lotus* and *Candia* cannot be expected to last more than two years and the *Gadshill* and *King Richard* more than four years.

Universal experience has most conclusively proved the tinkering up of old steamers to be a grievous mistake; Mr. Iwasaki, not content with this verdict as regards Japan, has squandered vast sums of money in endeavouring to prove the contrary in a country where material and skilled labour is costly, and some of the vessels so experimented upon would be dear as a gift.

The *Behar* and *Delta* have been repaired at a cost for new engines and boilers alone, which would have enabled the Company to obtain three or four first-class suitable steamers; these vessels will have been some two years undergoing repairs, inclusive of their voyage to England and back, and when they return, they will assuredly prove unsuitable for present requirements and not worth half the expenditure incurred on them. The M. B. steamers are, one and all, large consumers of coal; and to remove as far as possible the prospect of their being able to pay their expenses, the company have lately set to work and imported Australian coal at a price which can only show a profit to the importers. The reckless

and extravagant manner in which coals, stores &c. have been supplied by the Mitsu Bishi Company will well afford matter for another letter. But in the meantime, let me remark that the Company was established to assist in developing the national industries of Japan, and this was specially incumbent on them as regards coal, which forms the most serious item in the economy of a steamer. It so happens that the steamers of the Mitsu Bishi Company (like other Companies' steamers in China) have had the combustion fittings of their boilers specially arranged to burn small and cheap coal, yet with all this, a question of private pique (for it can be accounted for by no other means) between the proprietor of the Takashima mines and Iwasaki, is allowed to stand in the way, coal in large quantity at great cost is imported from a foreign country, and the interests of the Mitsu Bishi Company are sacrificed.

The serious responsibility resting upon them, as managers of one of the most powerful arms of Japan, appears never to have been recognized or felt by the Iwasaki brothers. At one moment, nothing would satisfy them except the Company must have a Dry Dock specially constructed for their own fleet, regardless of the cost of such an undertaking and the fact, that in proportion to the shipping running on the coast, Japan, in this respect, is better supplied than most other countries in the world. Then the next whim was an Insurance Company; I would ask, if they have so signally failed in the management of the Steamer Company, what would have been the present state of the Insurance shares, if this had been tacked on as an adjunct to the Mitsu Bishi Company?

The China Merchant Company, a few years since, found the only way to tide over difficulties they encountered when first starting, was to attach an Insurance Company, this was done, and some 200,000 *taels* of Insurance capital was thrown into "hotch potch" and with what result? That when the two steamers were lost last February, the Insurance Company made it an excuse for not paying even interest to its shareholders. Consequently foreign, not native managed Insurance Companies now possess the confidence of the wealthy Chinese.

Thus enjoying a complete monopoly of the Coast trade of Japan, of both goods and passenger traffic, supported by a liberal subsidy and extraordinary facilities, the result of 3 years working is semi-bankruptcy, if we are to believe the statement of Mr. Iwasaki. The Pacific Mail Company without any such advantages, managed to work the steamers on this line to show a net profit of some \$15,000 per month.

The policy of the Mitsu Bishi Company, instead of facilitating the trade of the country, has had a directly opposite result, and has contrived to choke and almost destroy it.

The following comparison between the rates of freight ruling for some months past between England and the East, and the revised rates of the Mitsu Bishi Company will justify the assertion.

Freight by 1st class steamers between England and China, say 15,000 miles, \$7.50 per ton. Freight between Yokohama and Hakodate say 600 miles, \$6.00 per ton.

Such rates as charged by the Mitsu Bishi Company are prohibitory, and the farm producers are actually worse off with a good crop than with a bad one, for they cannot get their produce to a market, and naturally have to submit to sacrifice it at such prices as will not pay them. Again, the continuance of such a scale of freight will be the means of bringing more foreign steamers to run on the coast, and will also lead to other combinations amongst the Japanese, who can now have the advantage of procuring economical and suitable vessels which must compete to the disadvantage of the Mitsu Bishi steamers.

The junk trade of the country is also reviving under the oppressive and misapplied monopoly of the Mitsu Bishi Company, and if in lieu of the ineffective square-sail, junk owners can be persuaded to alter the rig of their vessels to a somewhat similar rig to that employed by the Chinese, this opposition will be found to be formidable. For besides expediting and facilitating the coast trade of the country, it will make the junkmen more experienced seamen, teaching them greater self-reliance and confidence, also tending greatly to the security of life and property afloat.

It is as well that the Japanese should bear in mind that, in adopting foreign vessels or foreign models and systems, —naturally it is to be expected that foreigners should know how to handle these, better than Japanese who have

had no such experience, and that seamanship and presence of mind amidst the difficulties and dangers that surround a sailor's life cannot be learnt in a day by "rule of thumb."

Not satisfied with crying down the Mitsu Bishi Company, Mr. Iwasaki must needs attempt to throw discredit on the National Loan, by immediately afterwards offering to subscribe 500,000 yen.

It would seem by this action, that, whatever misfortunes have overtaken the Mitsu Bishi Company, these at all events have contributed to the enhancement of Mr. Iwasaki's private fortune, to such a degree as to enable him to contribute a large amount to the National Loan, otherwise it can only be looked upon as a farce, or else that the published statement was without foundation.

I purpose continuing my criticism of this Company, and remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

NAUTICUS.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, June 7th 1878.

THE *Volga*, bringing the Marseilles mail of the 17th of April, arrived in harbour this evening two days behind time. The *Malacca*, bringing the English mail of April 26th, left Hongkong on the 4th inst. and may consequently be expected here early next week and up to her schedule time, notwithstanding the accident to the *Khetice*. The latter vessel on her way to China from Galle, came into collision with the Dutch mail steamer *Fourwinds*, injuring her bows to such an extent as to necessitate her docking in Singapore: her mails were brought on to Hongkong by a Holt's line steamer. The *Gordic* may also be expected early in the week from San Francisco, having left there on the 18th ulto. The *Suncho* with the home mails left on Wednesday last, and the *Belgie* was despatched this morning at daylight for San Francisco with a full complement of cargo, principally tea for the States. We hear that the cargo room of the next outgoing American steamer is fully engaged. Two mail steamers from Shanghai and coast ports arrived during the week, the *Nagoya Maru* and *Saikio Maru* on the 2nd and 6th inst. respectively, the *Nagoya Maru* leaving on the outward trip on Wednesday last. One inward and two outward mail steamers from and to Hakodate complete our mail steamer intelligence for the week. A sailing ship, called by the auspicious name of *Fair Leader*, is making an extraordinary long passage, she left London for this on the 25th of September last year, consequently she has already been eight and a half months on her voyage. She passed Anjer April 3rd.

The preparations for the Regatta are progressing, we believe, as fairly as such things can progress in Yokohama, where man has to strive against weather. So far as we can learn, the preparations consist in the procurement of the *Thabor* as a flag-ship, which is kindly lent by the Lighthouse Department. It is not in the best position possible, but it is the only ship available, and as her accommodation is very good, her fittings very elegant and her officers attentive, we hope there will be a pleasant day. We are glad to hear that by the kindness of the French Admiral, the band of the *Armide* will attend, so though the sea may be rough and prevent rowing, at least our lady friends will be able to dance. The race of the day will be the race for open boats 20 feet and over, for which there are twenty-two entries. The Russian contingent is very numerous and their cutters are in full practice, the *Vladnick* cutter which seems the best of them, has a good chance of winning. A prettier sight than the start for this race will be rarely seen by residents in Yokohama, these twenty boats hoisting sail at the same time. Among the Rowing races, the Champion Pairs will produce a good race between the holders and the brothers Dare, who proved the better of the Challengers in a pretty race on Wednesday last; for it was a pretty race, though the crews

were not evenly matched and proved a closer finish than was expected. The Dares led from the commencement, rowing well within their strength, they eventually won by two lengths. About the end of the first half mile, Messrs. Playfair and Lilburn began to draw up to them, but could not catch them, want of condition and want of practice began to tell, and though they pluckily held the Dares until about a quarter mile from home, the latter then began to draw away. Before this paper is issued in Yokohama, the Regatta will have been finished, and a prophecy on the result of the various races will be useless, but in the Champion Pairs our fancy is for the Challengers, as they are better together and have more practice than the holders, whom we have scarcely seen. The Fours, Mr. A. H. Dare ought to win; he is fortunate in having the best boat in the Club, and those who know the pull a new boat has over an old one, will appreciate his advantage, and though handicapped with a penalty of a length, it ought to serve him to win. Mr. J. J. Dare is the favourite, but judging from the improvement shewn by the other boats in the last few days, there is a chance of the certainty being upset.

The news by wire from Europe received since our last are of importance. The best informed European publicists have always been of opinion that this last Russian attack upon Turkey was forced upon the Emperor against his will; and it appears now extremely doubtful whether the Russian armies can be withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Constantinople without the crowning triumph of having occupied it, except at the cost of revolution and dethronement of the Romanoffs. From the telegram which reached us on the 5th inst. we learn that the simultaneous withdrawal of the British fleet to Besika Bay and of the Russian troops to Adrianople had been insisted on by England as a preliminary to the Berlin Conference; and that the Russian Press had expressed disapproval of such a concession being made by Russia. This is certainly menacing to the prospects of peace from whatever point of view we regard this statement about the Russian Press. Ordinarily, the Russian Press is held under far stricter supervision than the Japanese—and, if this bondage is as severe as ever, the dissatisfaction expressed may have been permitted, to give the government an excuse to refuse withdrawal of the troops, which means war, deliberately accepted by the Imperial family: should the Press have so far broken loose as to be able to make independent utterance of such sentiments, then this means war again, but with the Romanoffs driven into it against their will, on pain of dynastic destruction. The only thing about which there is no doubt or possibility of mistake is—that the Salisbury dispatch, the sailing of troops from India, the calling out of our Reserves, and the movements of our fleets have made England mistress of the situation. The telegraphic messages received during the week:—'Russia and Great Britain are agreed as to the basis of the negotiations to be discussed at the Conference'—'a preliminary to the Conference is the withdrawal of the Russian Troops to Adrianople'—and the cessation of excitement in England all tend to prove this. And as Lord Beaconsfield has never, throughout the whole period from the Constantinople Conference until now, wavered for a moment in his determination to uphold the Treaty of Paris, we can anticipate with great ease the 'basis of the negotiations' referred to. 'Vaulting ambition hath o'erleap'd its selle, and fall'n o' the other side.'

The news that the Emperor of Germany has been again attacked by a Socialist assassin, and this time slightly wounded, shows us that our boasted European civilization is not free, either, from the noxious weed of political murder. Our great men are better guarded, though—or our murderers have a greater regard for their own chances of escape than in Japan, and German citizens here have not to mourn the loss of their great Emperor. Another terrible loss, though, has overtaken the Empire: that of the *Grosser Kurfurst*, one of the four iron-clads possessed by its infant navy, which has sunk in the Straits of Dover, from the effects of a collision with a companion vessel, drowning officers and men to the number of three hundred. Friends in Japan of Count Monte, the hospitable Captain of the *Vineta*, who was well known and liked in Yokohama, will hear with great regret that he was among the victims of the accident. The loss of the vessel itself is also a severe one, her tonnage being over 4,000 tons register, and she being a fine brand-new ship built and armed on the best and latest models.

We have fortunately no such accident to record in our part of the world, though the week has not passed without bringing us news of disaster. An immense amount of damage appears to have been done in Hongkong and its vicinity by a rain storm of very unusual violence, which raged there during the early hours of the 22nd of May and of which we now get the details. Nine-and-a-half inches depth of rain-fall was suffered during less than two

hours; and naturally the impact of so many thousand tons of water made great havoc with roads, drains, and foundations of houses. We chiefly regret the almost entire destruction of the nurseries of young trees and young plantations which we have lately had so much pleasure in noticing. Nearly half of the Japanese seed sown had come up, and the whole of this has been washed away. Afforestation in tropical climates is by no means easy work.

We mentioned, last week, the competitors in the ocean race with new teas, from China to England, and named the *Glenwagles* as having got away first. The *Loudoun Castle*, which followed her, was delayed in the river by getting aground and consequently did not pass the starting point, the Red Buoy at Woosung, until fifty hours after the leading ship. We shall have particulars of the departures of all the rival steamers, we expect, by next week, when we will tabulate them for record.

An unusually interesting cricket-match has been played during the week, begun on Monday, and finished this afternoon. The Club and the Navy was the match, and with so many men-of-war in harbour, a much better team came on shore than is usually seen. According to the rules, the Navy won; as the match was not finished on the first day, and the first innings showed a score of 60 for them against 59 for the shore eleven; but as it was only 4.15 when the first innings was over, it was agreed to play out the match, finishing it to-day. In the Club's second innings, Mr. Trevethick, a very slashing hitter lately up from Kobe, distinguished himself by quite over-powering the bowling and getting 64 runs with only one chance. Three other batsmen's scores running into double figures, a total of 128 was put together for the club's second innings, and this afternoon, consequently, the Navy had to go in to make 127 to tie. This they have completely failed to do—coming on shore only 8 strong, and putting together only 25 runs.

Again an impudent robbery, effected without the least interruption from the native police, has demonstrated the necessity of municipal reform in this particular. Readers in better-governed communities than Yokohama will hardly believe the following details of this robbery, yet they are strictly true. The double doors of a godown, giving on to a well-frequented street, and secured by two padlocks, one exceptionally heavy, were broken open—the padlocks being removed by hammer and chisel—five bolts of canvas carried off and a larger quantity piled just within the door, waiting removal. These goods must have been carried in a cart or *jinricksha*, and yet the police do not appear to have acted as the slightest check to the removal of the goods. The utter lack of protection of this town during the night by the Japanese police is simply scandalous, and why the Consular Board do not take some action is very surprising. The ground rents should be withheld. The writer's avocations, and certain frequent fits of *insomnie* have, during the past six months, caused him to walk a number of miles between midnight and dawn both round and through the settlement, and on the Bluff, and his opportunities of noticing the behaviour of the police have been unusually good. Never has he seen a policeman doing his duty on his beat as it should be done! In rainy weather, cowering in sheltered corners, or crouched down in doorways; in fine weather, leaning dozing against walls, but never moving like policemen anywhere else, from one end of a beat to the other. Meanwhile suspicious figures are flitting about, *jinrickshas* waiting for the plunder at convenient corners and ready to give the alarm if necessary, all without challenge, examination, or enquiry; no frequent inspector's rounds, not a glimmer of a bullseye, not the slightest evidence of watch and ward. And of course week after week, such robberies as this we record to-day take place: burglaries clumsily executed, by simple main force, and with the rudest tools, and which,—including the transport of the 'swag' must take almost hours to transact. These circumstances justify, even, strong suspicions that the police, the burglars and the *jinricksha* men are all in league together. Surely such a state of things calls for diplomatic remonstrance, if not more active measures. Or must the community appeal to their various Governments at home against the supineness of their representatives here?

The Grand Hotel, which was sold on Saturday last to Mr. Von Hemert, Agent for the mortgagees, for \$22,100, including all its furniture and fixtures, has, after passing—it was said—through second hands, finally been settled to-day in those of MM. Bonnat & Cie., the proprietors of the Oriental Hotel, and formerly we think, of the well-known 'Sweetmeat Castle' in Shanghai. MM. Bonnat have a great reputation to keep up, which we have no doubt they will do in their new venture. The Grand Hotel is a cheap bargain for them, and should give them excellent returns: we wish them success.

The purport of a conversation stated to have been held recently

between Li-Hung-Chang, and H. E. Arinori Mori, Japanese Minister at Peking, has gone the round of the Japanese and foreign press; the whole subject is doubtless a "squin" although on the face of it carrying a certain air of plausibility; even if it were true we question the taste of foreign journals attempting to throw discredit on the Japanese Government, by commenting on the foreign policy of the Government on matters which can only concern the parties interested. We shall have more to say on this subject next week.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (Unanswered.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he or some one else may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can any one say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosei" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, some other student may be able to do the same for it.

3.—Can any account be got of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c. (Unanswered.) X.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat; the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium temulentum* or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineæ*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions. (Unanswered.) R. N.

Qy. 12. In Jules Verne's work, entitled "Michael Strogoff, the Courier of the Czar," occurs a paragraph which touches upon the disposal of political exiles in Siberia. Speaking of their concentration at Irkutsk, during one of the Tartar invasions, he says "some are doctors, others professors, either at the Japanese school or at the School of Navigation." One does not of course, expect absolute accuracy in a novel, but is our ingenious author not a little adrift here! I shall however be glad to know if such an institution really exists. (Unanswered.) M.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE POSITION OF JAPANESE TEAS.

(From the 'Chiu-gai Bakka Shimpō'.)

THIS year the trade in New Teas has commenced earlier than usual; the first was brought into Yokohama on April 22nd., since which date more than a month has elapsed, and the amount brought into the place during the period is about 2,000,000 *kin* (20,000 piculs.) The current price of the first parcels was \$55, but it soon fell to \$44, or \$45, then to \$40, again to \$35 and lately it has come down to only \$27 or \$28. Such a speedy fall is indeed unusual, and no one can fail to be surprised at it; and that especially the proprietors of tea farms should be uncertain how they should act in future, is not unreasonable.

When we ourselves inspected the new teas of this year in Yokohama, we perceived them to be so carelessly prepared, and their quality to be so bad, having no brightness in the leaf, deficient in weight and safely to be grasped in the hand,*—that we could not feel certain that they were new.

* A native test is by grasping the leaves in the hand: the new leaf is hard and will break. Old tea is flabby and will not.

They were said to come from Omi, Suruga, Totômi, Musashi, Kadzusa and Shimôsa, and their price was stated to be \$30. Thus we discovered, for the first time, the cause of so considerable a fall in market prices this year.

Six or seven years ago, the writer was in Yokohama and connected with the tea trade there, and having personally dealt in teas from various places, remembers that, at that time, Omi, Suruga, Totômi &c. used to produce pretty well the best teas; but the quality of this year's tea is so bad, that he can only believe that they are not the product of the same places. The price of about \$30 for this quality of tea is certainly not low; and we are therefore reduced to say that 'the recent fall in market value of Tea is not a fall in price, but a fall in quality.'

That the quality of the Tea produced has become so bad is due to the fact that, the production of tea in China, India, and Japan having yearly increased, and their price having gradually lowered, producers have become unable to give their full attention to manuring the ground and growing the plants; and, as the amount of production has increased, they have endeavoured to curtail the amount of labour. For instance, producers, who have hitherto been used to grow tea on one or two *tan** were able to pick and prepare the teas with only the labour of their own families and were then able to give full attention and care to the growing and preparation of the teas. But since they have increased the quantity of tea produced, the trade having been so prosperous for a time, they have been unable to manage the picking and preparation with the staff of their own families, and thus it has become necessary to hire other labour. But for the hire of a labourer, they must pay 30 or 40 *monme* a day; and then, as the market gradually became dull, feeling uneasy respecting the disposal of their product, and anxious to curtail expenses as much as possible, they now let the labourer, who used to prepare but one or two *kwamme* per day, (a *kwamme* is about 8½ lbs avoirdupois) prepare five *kwamme*. Thus they have been obliged to permit the quality to deteriorate; and, furthermore, as foreigners, lately, have constantly sought to purchase only the cheap teas, the makers have become more and more careless in preparation, and do not seem to perceive that their reputation and value will, some day, be entirely lost. So, as the price falls, quality becomes inferior; and then, as the quality deteriorates, again the value is lowered; this is unavoidable, and can only be deeply regretted. So we have always argued, regretting the failure of our tea export.

And now about Black Tea. The object we had in view when we recommended the production of this, was not only to do this, but to promote the manufacture of anything which seemed to promise profit, so as to redeem the previous failure. But the Uji made teas have now got down to such a low point that to restore them is indeed almost impossible (lit. most difficult of all the difficulties.) On the other hand, the making of Black Teas has lately become prevalent, as we have constantly been reporting, and in spite of the repeated assurances of the *Japan Times*—that 'the quality of tea in this country unfits it for being made into Black Tea,' samples of the first grade of the second class, sent to London, have obtained a valuation of more than one shilling (see No. 71 of this journal) and of those produced this year, if the quality is of the first class, foreigners are contending at Yokohama for its purchase at \$50 per picul and even 2nd class teas are selling at the current price of \$37 or 38 per picul. This Black Tea being inexpensive in its preparation, whilst its selling price is high, compared with that of the Uji make, the difference in profit is about \$10 per picul. But the reason why this Black Tea has so good a reputation and value now, is certainly not from a fortunate chance only, but because of the fact that—not to speak of those who went to India to learn to make Black Tea, but also those who have learnt from them, are striving to produce really good quality, though knowing that in the end it may be unprofitable to give so much care to it. But should they, on account of the temporary demand, strive to produce larger and larger quantities, and should there be any lack of care in its preparation, then they will at once see it follow the same path as the Uji made tea. We therefore strongly urge on those who are concerned in the production of Black Tea that they should always keep up their present carefulness of preparation, and guard against affecting the state of the market in the future by producing inferior qualities.

Though, as we have said, it is an exceedingly difficult

matter to restore Uji made teas to their former position, still there are means of doing it. But it cannot be done by any assistance that Government can give; and it is better, indeed, that Government should not interfere, but leave the people to themselves. The only means of restoration is that the parties concerned should earnestly strive to produce as good a quality as possible, export it direct to America and other countries, let the people there taste the real flavour of our properly made tea, and thus induce a liking for it; and thereafter, let the profit made by the operation be publicly known.

We earnestly beg our readers who are interested in the article to strive and help in this direction, instead of idly looking on at the decadence of our tea trade, which is one of the most important industries of the country. We, for our part, undertake to pay our utmost attention to investigating the actual state of the markets, and will not fail to report the same from time to time.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION

(From the 'Chingai Bukka Shimpô'.)

ALTHOUGH the public is fully aware of the importance and urgent need of commercial schools, we have not yet heard of any single practically useful one being established. Looking back to the times before the Restoration, we remember that, though there were no schools of this kind, parents who intended their children for merchants used always to send them, at the age of six or seven, to schools where they could receive the ordinary education in reading, arithmetic and writing; then, when they had reached the age of ten, they would be sent to some suitable merchant's house, as apprentices. Here they would become experienced in the management of goods, versed in book-keeping, learn how to write invoices, and how to receive or visit customers, &c. &c.—and, at the same time would devote themselves to study and reading the books, writings, and mathematics necessary for merchants to know. Thus having, step by step, gained experience in business transactions in a practical way, they became merchants. This was the custom prevalent in all parts of the country at that time, and, in fact, apprenticeship served as a school for the study of the practice of trade. The ordinary tradesmen of our country at the present time have all been through this course, but those who have been *shizoku*, and are now become merchants, have no such knowledge or practical experience, and as they merely act, in business, on their judgment alone, they often fail. This is certainly not wonderful. In former times, our laws were not so strict as they are now, business was transacted only within the country; the national mind was more restful, and trouble in business did not readily occur. And as morality was generally regarded, if one man took an action against another into court, his neighbours, without ascertaining whether he was right or wrong in so doing, did not like to do business, or associate with him, thereafter. Thus the method of education then followed was found to be sufficient, and nothing more was wanted; but the present mercantile community is in a far different state; the laws have become more and more strict, foreign trade has flourished and, consequently, the manner of transacting business has undergone a change, and the variety of goods now dealt in has greatly increased. It is therefore beyond doubt that the knowledge to be gained in the old fashion is now insufficient for the proper transaction of business. The present elementary schools being simply improvements on the old ones as regards the course of study, these are only useful for educating children. Apprenticeship, which, in former times, was looked on as a practical school, is now no longer so; because, in former times, during apprenticeship, boys got no salaries (except very rarely) only receiving suitable dresses for separate seasons; and their parents, though they sent their children to be so employed, did it with the object that they should acquire knowledge, and they were regarded as students. But it is not so now. Though parents speak of sending their children as apprentices, to gain a knowledge of business; in reality, they only seek a salary. And on the other hand, employers, wishing to make some use of them in return for the salaries paid, only employ the boys in doing what they are accustomed to and can most usefully do, and thus there is no time for them to acquire general knowledge of mercantile matters. Therefore, at present, it is hopeless to think of becoming a merchant by serving an apprenticeship. We

* A *tan* is 300 *tesubos* or 10,800 square feet, about a quarter of an acre.

have lately heard of the establishment of several mercantile schools. This is, indeed, good news; but we cannot avoid doubt, because the wonder to us is—though the schools are established, how are the children to be taught? Are the old books to be used? These are of no value at present. Are the pupils to learn only book-keeping? Then they will only be useful as Bank accountants. Are translations of English and French mercantile books to be taught? Such are only of use to commercial lawyers. Shall the commercial science of Europe and America be taught by foreigners? They would only make foreign merchants of the pupils, and render them unfit for practical business. For instance, we have actually observed that such as have learned, in schools, the foreign system of book-keeping, are well versed in the languages and have studied the methods of transacting business in other countries—not having been educated in the common Japanese way of doing business, are quite useless for commerce in the interior. On the other hand, those who have been through the course of instruction formerly mentioned, never having even dreamed of transactions with foreigners, cannot even make up an ordinary balance sheet. Merchants being thus all imperfect, cannot be said to be competent. And if matters are allowed to go on thus, as time elapses, —the old method of learning business by apprenticeship being discarded, men who have been so taught will gradually disappear; while the other class, though they may advance in science and theory, will only become conceited, and going farther and farther from practice, will be useless to the community. We therefore maintain that there is no use in establishing mercantile schools unless a proper system of teaching is employed, without which, no good result can be gained. It is, indeed, at present, of most urgent need that a proper system should be selected and decided on; and we earnestly wish that some of the enlightened gentlemen concerned in this direction would make themselves acquainted with matters connected with the home and foreign trade; and, picking out the necessary points, would compile and publish some Rules for Commercial Education, practically useful, and tending to improve the Japanese merchant of the future.

THE CHANGE IN CURRENCY OF COINS.

(From the 'Chiugai Bukka Shimpō')

OUR readers have doubtless understood, from the Government Notifications Nos. 12 and 13, published in all the newspapers of May 28th, that a great change has been made in the currency of our coins. Our Silver Trade Dollars having hitherto been coined merely for the trade at the open ports, have circulated, like the Mexican Dollar, only within the limits of those ports: they were not serviceable as current coin in the interior. But by the effect of these Notifications, they have become coin for general use, and can hereafter be used in paying taxes, and in all other business transactions, either public or private. The charge for coining them has also been reduced from $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 1 per cent; the fixed amount of bullion receiveable by the Mint, which has hitherto been 1,000 ounces, is reduced to 500 ounces; and the period to elapse between receipt of the bullion and delivery of the coin, is reduced from twenty days to ten days. Thus a special advantage is given to the Trade Dollars; and indeed they are raised to the rank of standard, the same as gold. We respectfully suggest that the object of our government in making this change, and equalizing the charges for coinage on silver and gold (both being one per cent) is as follows. A special advantage being given to the silver coin (the expense of coining 1,000 ounces of Gold bullion being about 200 yen, whilst that of coining 1,000 ounces of Silver bullion will be only about 12 yen) notwithstanding the difficulties which actually attend the existence of two standard coins—we believe that, though the two standards will nominally exist together, the Government's policy is now directed to the object of making silver the standard actually. When the Mint was about to be established in Osaka, officers were dispatched to Europe and America in order to investigate the principles of coinage, who ascertained that the majority of opinions agreed that, at that time, it was indispensably necessary that Gold should be the standard; and these officers, having carefully studied the subject, and believed the correctness of this opinion, recommended the adoption of a Gold Standard to the Government. The Government approving their recommendation, accordingly made Gold yen the standard coin, and together

with the silver one yen, put them in circulation. There has, however, been not a little loss sustained whenever there has been fluctuation in the value of silver coin, and when considerable trouble had thus occurred, the Mint happened to get out of order, (lit. the coining machine happened to get broken) in consequence of which, the coinage of silver one yen pieces ceased, and thus gold coin became the only standard. But, subsequently, in order to have coin which would circulate in China and adjacent countries, and also to be a medium of exchange in the trade at the open ports; a silver Trade Dollar, equal in weight to the Trade Dollar of the United States, has been newly coined, and it seems that, now, the Government, seeing that there is considerable difficulty from the want of reliable coins in Hongkong, Singapore, &c., and conjecturing that this is a good opportunity for extending the circulation of our silver coins to these places, and making arrangements to export them to China—and perceiving also that gold is not practically suitable as a standard in Oriental countries, has entirely altered its policy. Gold coin being a standard, is not to be abandoned at once, but will be left for the present; and, nominally, both gold and silver are standards;—but, that, indirectly, by giving special advantages to the silver Trade Dollar, Government wishes to empower it to overcome the gold coin, is plain from the fact that it makes the coinage fees equal on both. Not only is this practised in our country, but it is so in others; for, in France and Germany, though gold coin is made the standard, yet silver coin circulates. Again, supposing our argument to be so far right;—advancing another step, and considering the future, and that at present it is unknown whether leaving both coins as standards may breed trouble: if we find that trouble is actually brought forth,—then we can decidedly abandon Gold, and make Silver the only standard.

Now, though in Foochow, Amoy, Hongkong, Penang, Singapore, Annam, &c., Spanish, Mexican, and the United States Dollars are all indiscriminately used, they are not in the same position; for the U. S. Dollar is not yet favourably received in the British territories, and the Spanish and Mexican Dollars—although they have been used in these places for some time, and are come to be looked upon as tolerably reliable coin—still, by reason of the countries where they are coined being so distant, they are not in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of trade conveniently. Thus, at last, there being no reliable coins to be got, the people in China &c., are actually negotiating to apply to the British Government to again establish a Mint in Hongkong, to coin a British Dollar. But the British Government, having actually sustained a loss some time ago, it is certain that, however warmly the request may be urged, it is not likely easily to grant it. Now there being here, in Japan, which is so near, a great and extensive Mint, which can coin several millions of yen every day, and our country being midway to America, the native land of silver, there is a great advantage for our Dollar in the matter of freight, and further we are informed that there are foreigners in these places among the residents, who will greatly protect our Trade Dollars and are working indirectly to get them established. Now if at this time, we can contrive to extend the circulation of our silver Trade Dollars, it may be expected that they will overcome all others, and become the only current coin in all Oriental countries.

Leaving the question of foreign circulation, the Mexican Dollar has at present a great power in all our markets, and as we have often argued, this is an useless and injurious burden which we should take this opportunity to get rid of. Look at its actual current price! It has recently fluctuated more than one monme (1.66 per cent) in one day; and though this has been in great measure due to the balance of imports and exports being unequal, yet this frequent fluctuation is only caused by the action of speculators. And how great is the loss sustained thereby by the merchants engaged in the trade! This is really due to current coins being so scarce, and to their circulation being so limited. If, therefore, these were replaced by our silver Trade Dollar, speculators will be unable to interfere. For although their price may fluctuate a little, still as the extent of their circulation is widened, and their number will be great,—if the current price rises here, they will at once pour in from the interior, and if it falls, they will go out, and so the par value will at once be restored. And thus there will be no such injury as that sustained from the Mexican Dollar. This is what we firmly believe. If, therefore, merchants concerned in the

trade will at once direct their attention to this matter, and by a combined effort, endeavour to sweep away the Mexican Dollar and replace it by our own Trade Dollar, this will not only result in profit to themselves, but will not a little benefit, also, the country at large.

EXTRACT.

SANITARY PRECAUTIONS.

[This is Mr. Brunton's letter on the subject of drainage of Compounds, and care of the street drains, referred to in an Editorial Note on another page.]

To the Editor of the *Japan Times*.

Yokohama, 20th December, 1869.

SIR,—The Drainage works under my charge being now commenced with the prospect of an early completion, will you allow me to say a few words concerning them?

A pipe will be laid through the wall of each compound of a sufficient size and having a sufficient fall to carry off the sewage of that compound.

When that has been done, our work ceases and it rests with the proprietor of the compound to arrange the Drainage of his own place.

It is on this point that I am anxious—for the success of the work—to give a few explanations.

The sewage entering this pipe may be expected to come from three different sources. First from the Water Closets, Second from the Kitchen, and Third from the surface of the ground.

With regard to the First, as explained in my original scheme, the excrements from the dwellings cannot be permitted to enter the drain, without there is sent along with them a sufficient quantity of water to keep them in suspension, and so long as the present system of outside privies exists, the drainage works cannot assist in carrying off this part of the sewage.

As to the Second, a small connecting pipe leading to the bottom of a zinc lined tub fitted in the Kitchen, will greatly tend to keep the compounds clean by affording a place where dirty water may be thrown.

In regard to the Third, at a convenient spot, selected so that all the surface water may flow towards it, should be built a well somewhat similar to those built in the streets, and a pipe led from it to the drain pipe before mentioned.

The two latter are simple matters, entailing little trouble or expense in their execution, but in the case of the first rather an extensive change is required which many will hesitate to accomplish.

An elevated Water Tank with a force-pump to fill it from the well, will be required, as well as a regular patent Water Closet, which will discharge itself directly into the pipes.

I trust it will not be considered out of place if I attempt to impress upon the community the necessity for adopting some such system as this, and abolishing privies and all kinds of cesspools.

As early as the year 1845 it was, in London, a punishable offence to allow excremental or offensive matter into the sewers, they being used as simple water channels and being in most cases open. Up to that time it was the custom to look upon cesspools as the proper receptacles for excrements. Their walls were quite porous, so that the offensive liquids were continually percolating through them—saturating the soil, contaminating the water in wells and raising all manner of poisonous gases. A commission in 1845 reported to Parliament concerning the amount of sickness and death resulting from these contrivances, and this report was followed in 1847 by an act making it compulsory to drain all privy contents into the sewers.

In Yokohama, in some cases, cesspools are used for the reception of this class of sewage and in others it is allowed to remain in roughly constructed wooden boxes in the privies until periodically removed. Wells of a moderate depth are almost universal here and at no great distance from them is usually placed the cesspool or privy, and the water in them becomes tainted with the noxious sewage ingredients which find their way into it. In all soils there are veins which these wells cut, and through these veins they are supplied with water. When the cesspools also intercept these veins, the poisonous gases and atoms are carried by the water into the wells.

The poisoning of water or air is not necessarily perceptible to the taste or smell; cases are known where people have expressed a preference for water which on being chemically analyzed has been found to contain the most poisonous matter.

The diseases recorded as being produced by these means are

neuralgia, ague, chest inflammation, intermittent fever, typhoid fever &c. People are also rendered peculiarly subject to attacks of epidemics.

A celebrated medical professor says:—"Cholera and other diseases are propagated not only by the atmosphere when charged by fecal gases, but also by wells when contaminated by excremental percolation, the latter being by far the most dangerous mode, as the cholera ferment or poison is much more concentrated and powerful in the water we drink than in the air we inhale. Excrements even of cholera-stricken persons never spread their infectious ferment while they are fresh, but only after the second day, when alkaline fermentation sets in."

In Yokohama the materials for the production of disease may be said to be perfect, and under the circumstances it is astonishing it has escaped so well.

It will be remarked that the greatest amount of epidemic sickness occurs in spring, after the long droughts of winter, and it will also be noted that during the rainy season less of that kind of ill-health occurs. This is due to a copious rainfall, causing the subsoil water to rise, filling up the pores of the earth and preventing the passage of the obnoxious gases, &c. Dry weather having of course the opposite effect of leaving the veins clear for them. Thus, in Calcutta, the deaths by Cholera in 26 years have been during the wet seasons about 5,000, and during the dry months, as many as 19,000.

It has further been remarked with surprise that an equal, if not a greater amount of sickness occurred on the Bluff than in the settlement. That can be accounted for by the geological formation of each, the Bluff subsoil being a porous sandy gravel, while the Settlement is built on soft mud or clay, which is less porous.

The combined presence, then, of wells, cesspools and open privies are fruitful of disease and till they are abolished, the drainage scheme can make no effect upon the health of Yokohama.

Wells are in themselves innocent, so long as the subsoil is kept pure, and they cannot be done away with, until a more perfect water supply is obtained. But the drainage works offer a means to each proprietor to carry off the poisonous filth which contaminates the air he breathes and the water he drinks and which at present he leaves to ferment in his compound.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. HENRY BRUNTON.

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CONTENTS OF No. 23. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. JUNE 8TH, 1878.

LEADING ARTICLES.

Reform of the Press Laws. Commercial Education. The New Currency.

Supplementary Forestry Regulations

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Lord Salisbury's Despatch on the Eastern Question and Prince Gortchakoff's reply.

CORRESPONDENCE.

'Nauticus' on the Mitsu Bishi Company. No. 2.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.—NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The Position of Japanese Teas. Commercial Education. The Change in Currency of Coins.

EXTRACTS.

Mr. Brunton on Drainage.

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 22. JUNE 1, 1878.

The Provincial Parliaments. The Provisions of the Bill. The Finance Notifications. April Trade Returns. Papers of the German Asiatic Society. A Contribution to the History of Mathematics in Japan. By A. Westphal.

Editorial Notes.

Correspondence. 'Nauticus' on the Mitsu Bishi Company.

Notes of the Week.

The Japanese Press. Silkworms' Eggs. Tea. How can a Statesman best secure his position?

Extracts. Mr. Conder on Japanese Architecture. Part 2.

Trade returns for March and April.

Mail Steamer Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. Advertisements.

[illegible]

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2					
" No. 2					
" No. 2½ (good medium)					
" No. 3 (medium)					
" Inferior					
Oshio No. 1 and 2					
" No. 1, 2 and 3					
Hamaaki No. 1, 2 and 3... ..					
Tea:—					
Common per pcl.	10.00 to — "			} 6,350 exclusive of Black Teas.	} about 4,000 piculs.
Good Common... ..	11.00 to 14.00 "				
Medium	15.00 to 18.00 "				
Good Medium	19.00 to 21.00 "				
Fine	22.00 to 25.00 "				
Finest	26.00 to 29.00 "				
Choice	31.00 to 35.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu ... per pcl.	12.00 to — "	} Nothing doing.			
" Various	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax	12.00 to 13.00 "				
Coal, Takashima	9.00 to 10.50 "				
" Karatz	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice	2.35 to 2.75 "				
Sulphur (common)... ..	2.60 to 2.80 "				

FRIDAY EVENING, June 7th, 1878.

BULLION & CURRENCY Gold Yen 491. Kinatsen 427.

Original from
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

PASSENGERS:—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Messrs. Yoshikawa, Yamasaki, O. B. Bradford, Dr. P. C. Plugge, R. J. Beadon, Maries, P. Gutschow, Walter, T. Russell, H. Geslien, Uyebara, Inoye, Yendow, Kawaori, Kido, Hirota, Etchasaki, Orima, and a Chinese Lady in cabin; and 1 European, 5 Chinese, and 319 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: Messrs. Frank Hoyt, J. A. Perkins, and F. E. Ravenshaw in cabin.
 Per Brit. str. *Belgie* from Hongkong:—Mr. Leong Chun Tong and servant in cabin; and 1 Japanese, and 11 Chinese in steerage. For San Francisco: Mr. E. W. Duke Thompson in cabin; and George Smith and 305 Chinese in steerage. For Liverpool: Lieutenant E. E. Gould-Adams, of 74th Highlanders, in cabin.
 Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Right Revd. Bishop Burdon and Mrs. Burdon, Mrs. Iwasaki and family, Mr. and Mrs. Morse and infant, Mrs. Center, Miss Hudson, Lieutenant-Colonel Takabashi, Revd. J. H. Quinby, Revd S. E. Hoyt, Messrs. U. E. Philippens, Hoyeki, Okumoto, O. Smith, J. Von Stappen, Kawara, Ogawa, Toulger, R. Home Cook, Matsuoka, Nagasaki, and Katayama.
 Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Lowder and 2 children, Capt. and Mrs. Kuroda, Revd. and Mrs. Chauncy Goodrich, Dr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Strome, Mr. and Mrs. Tanbe, Messrs. J. Heise, Soida, Hisano, Allen, Hayward, E. C. Kirby, Itori, and Abe in cabin; and 3 Europeans, 6 Chinese, and 173 Japanese in steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17; "Bon Accord," Mar. 21.
 FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; "Sooloo," Dec. 22; "Mary Goodell," Dec. 20; Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24; "City of Boston," Mar. 8; "G. H. Ingersoll," Mar. 15; "Hattie E. Tapley," Mar. 19; "Francisca," April 7; "Pym," March 20.
 FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
 FROM BATAVIA:—"The Frederick," Jan. 21.
 FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.
 FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.
 FROM ANJEE:—"Fair Leader," Apr. 3; "Mary Goodell," Apr. 9.
 FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.
 FROM HONGKONG:—"Malacca," June 4.
 FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"Gaelic," May 18.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Sir Harry Parkes," "Berwickshire," S. S. "Mikado," S. S. "Sumatra." At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str., June 11th; Hongkong M. M. str., June 19th; San Francisco, O. & O. str., June 10th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str., June 18th.

**CARGO:—Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$30,700.00 and yen 216,465.21.
 Per Jap. str. *Nagoya Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$152,400.00.
 Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, yen 81,151.00.**

**REPORTS:—The American ship *Haze* reports:—Left New York on the 31st December. Pleasant voyage. Anchored 10 p.m. June 2nd, 1878, at Yokohama anchorage.
 The British barque *Winton* reports:—Left Hakodate 14th May. Had a series of heavy gales, the whole voyage, lost upper and lower fore top-sail: also carried away the lower fore-sail yard while the men were aloft on the yard. The chief officer and one sailor fell on deck. The remainder managed to catch the fore yard where they held on.
 The British steamer *Aegean* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 27th May, 1878, at 6 a.m. From Hongkong to Akuisi-Sima Island, light variable winds and fine weather. From Akuisi-Sima Island to Oo-Sima Island fresh gales from the Northward and Eastward with heavy sea, ship pitching and rolling heavily and taking heavy sea over all. From Oo-Sima Island to Yokohama fresh breezes from Northward and Eastward and fine clear weather. Arrived at Yokohama June 3rd.
 The British steamer *Belgie* reports:—Sailed from Hongkong May 28th, 1878, at 3 p.m. Experienced fine weather with light S. W. monsoons and variable winds to port. Arrived at Yokohama June 4th at 11.45 a.m.
 The German schooner *Augusta Reimers* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 20th May. Experienced, in Formosa Channel, light S. W. winds; from thence to Port calm and variable winds.**

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
June 3	Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 3	Wakanoura maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,300	Hakodate & Niigata		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 5	Sunda	Reeves	Brit. str.	1,704	Hongkong	June 12	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 5	Nagoya Maru	Conner	Jap. str.	1,914	Shanghai & ports	" 13	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 5	Imbat	Jones	Brit. str.	868	Kobe	" 7	General	Strachan & Co.
" 6	Siberia	Smith	Haw. str.	126	Ochots		General	Captain.
" 7	Belgie	Meyer	Brit. str.	2,652	San Francisco		Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 7	Elizabeth Ostle	Finn	Brit. barq.	740	Swari Bay		Ballast	Ed. Fischer & Co.

**PASSENGERS:—Per British steamer *Sunda* for Hongkong:—Capt. Webb, R.N., Robert Webb, Lieut. B. S. Bradley, Messrs. Edgar, Tremlett, Essory, Bull, Beed, Spyer, Donaldson, and Miss. E. Thurston in cabin; and 54 Europeans, and 2 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Brit. str. *Belgie* for San Francisco:—Lieut. E. E. Gould-Adams, R.N., Captain G. W. Tucker, Messrs. E. W. Duke Thompson, O. B. Bradford, B. Pollock, A. Jaffe, John Green, John G. Walsh, and Sir John Campbell Brown. For Liverpool: Mr. H. P. McClatchie, Lieutenant Cumming, R.N., Sr. A. Farando, Lieutenant Gladstone, R.N., Revd. J. Lamont, and Mr. C. M. Gillespie. For London: Mr. A. Batallio. For Paris: Mons. Sauzeau.**

**LOADING:—*Tamae*, for Hongkong and Europe, June 12th.—M. M. Co.
Saikio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, June 12th.—M. B. M. Co.
Glenorchy, for New York, June 10th.—Jardine Matheson & Co.
City of Peking, for San Francisco, June 5th.—P. M. Co.
Emma C. Beal, for San Francisco, June 25th.—Walsh, Hall & Co.
Obed Baxter, for New York, Quick despatch.—C. & J. Trading Co.
Glamis Castle, for New York, Quick despatch.—Adamson, Bell & Co.
Manhegan, for San Francisco, June 20th.—Walsh, Hall & Co.
Sumida Maru, for Hakodate and Niigata, June 10th.—M. B. M. Co.
Glenlyon, for New York, Quick despatch.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Rurik, for Callao, July 1st.—Moullron.
Aegean, for Kobe, June 9th.—Findlay, Richardson & Co.**

MAILS LEAVING:—For Hongkong, P. & O. str., June 19th; for Hongkong, M. M. str., June 12th; for America, P. M. str., June 19th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str., June 12th; for Hakodate, M. B. M. str. June 10th.

CARGO:—Per Brit. str. *Belgie* for San Francisco:—For New York, 67 bales Japan Silk; For various cities in America, 20,367 packages of Tea.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Aarhuus	Solling	Danish steamer	251	N'wca'len.s.w.	June 4	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Aegean	Stewart	British steamer	826	London	June 3	Findl'y, Rich'rds'n & Co.	Hiogo.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Laid up.
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	Repairing.
Glanis Castle	Greig	British steamer	1,583	Hongkong	May 28	Adamson, Bell & Co.	Kobe.
Glenlyon	Wallace	British steamer	1,373	London	May 30	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	New York.
Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	May 28	M. B. M. Co.	
Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Japanese steamer	1,200	Hakodate	June 6	M. B. M. Co.	Hakodate &c.
Saikio Maru	Vroom	Japanese steamer	2,146	Sha'hai & p'rts	June 6	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai &c.
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Tanais	De la Marcella	French steamer	1,735	Hongkong	May 20	M. M. Co.	Hongkong. &c.
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Toowoomba	Kirkpatrick	British barque	585	N'wca'len.s.w.	June 4	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	June 7	M. M. Co.	Hongkong &c.
SAILING SHIPS.							
Belle Morse	Hutchins	American ship	1,307	Nagasaki	May 7	P. M. Co.	
Coldinghame	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Coulmakyle	Gordon	British ship	579	London	May 15	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Emma C. Beal.	Bailey	American barque	567	N'wca'len.s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	F'r fre'h't or ch'r't'r.
Fleetwing	Guest	American ship	829	New York	June 7	Grosser & Co.	
Frederik Stang	Uchermann	Norwegian ship	992	N'wca'len.s.w.	June 1	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Gondolier	Atkinson	British ship	1,049	N'wca'len.s.w.	May 28	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Hase	Evans	American ship	856	New York	June 2	Chin' & J'p'n Tr'ding Co.	
Manhegan	Luce	American barque	1,173	Newcastle.s.w.	April 7	Walsh, Hall & Co.	San Francisco
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboyne	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	New York
Burik	Bergeland	Russian barque	839	N'wca'len.s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Callao.
Winlow	Barker	British barque	540	Hakodate	June 2	Yokohama Ice Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Monocacy...	6	1,370	Sloop	Captain Fyffe.
BRITISH—Juno...	8	2,216	Corvette	Captain Poland.
" —Kestrel...	4	462	Gun vessel	Captain Theobald.
" —Modeste...	27	1,913	Corvette	Captain Mead.
" —Egeria...	4	1,011	Sloop	Captain Douglas, R. N.
" —Frolic...	8	594	Gun vessel	Captain Dupuis.
FRENCH—La Clocheaterie...	12	1,990	Corvette	Captain Rieunier.
" —Cosmao...	12	1,900	Corvette	Captain Dumas Vence.
" —Armide...	—	3,790	Iron Clad	Captain Labarriere.
JAPANESE—Kongo...	9	1,800	Corvette	
" —Hi-yei...	9	1,761	Corvette	
RUSSIAN—Boyan...	8	2,000	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
" —Vladnick...	8	1,069	Corvette	Captain Novosilsky.
" —Haydamak...	8	1,100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
" —Abrek...	—	1,000	Gun vessel	Captain Schance.

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Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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" " " " " " " "	1 " " " " " "	1 " "	" "
" " " " " " " "	10 days " " " " "	3-16 " "	" "

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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

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At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

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Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

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8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. I. No. 24.]

June 15, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

PROSPECTS OF THE NEW SILK CROP.

[The subject of the following article, which we translate from the *Chingai Bukka Shimpô*, is of such importance at this period of the year, and the information given in it is likely to be of so much more interest to our mercantile readers than anything we have to address to them ourselves on any other subject, that we have no hesitation in yielding to it the first place in our columns.]

RAW SILK, the principal of our products, and that which alone enables us to maintain the balance of our foreign trade, is now approaching a new season, and is being diligently grown. In fact, the earliest of the cocoons are being spun, and we may expect new silk to be brought to market within a few days from date. Silk being so important a product, and the opening of the new season being so close, we cannot leave it without notice. For, though the advance in the manufacture of silk is well known in the country, still a brief account of its present position, and the publication of our own views upon it, may in some measure be of assistance to the industry.

As our readers know, in 1876, the European crop being in an unusually poor state and the current price of raw silk being higher than it ever was before, our silk merchants, without considering the requirements of our own silk piece-goods' manufactories in the interior, or how this interest would suffer, brought into the Yokohama market even the silks of Aizu, Iwashiro, Echizen, &c., which had not hitherto been liked by foreigners, and the total amount sold was 16,740 piculs (from July 1876 to June '77) while the amount left unsold was about 1000 bales, or say 800 piculs. Whilst the export of '74, '73, '72, '71 or '70 never reached over 11,600 or 11,700 piculs. Thus the increase of export in '76-'7 was about 45 per cent, and indeed surprised people at the time. During the season 1877-78, which will end on the 30th of this month, the crop in Europe has not been so poor, and as political complications in France, and the dispute between England and Russia have greatly affected manufactures generally in Europe, in consequence but a few have invested their capital in the manufacture of silk, and the season has ended without prices here rising as high as was expected. Still, we should not be greatly in error in attributing the excess of the export of this season over that of last, to the high prices paid during 1876-77, which stimulated business, and thus increased the amount grown. The quantity sold to foreigners in Yokohama during the present season (from July 1st 1877 to date) has been 17,420 piculs, and the stock on hand unsold is 300 bales, or say 240 piculs. It may be argued that we are wrong in calling this year's growth an 'increase' having regard to the small amount left on hand unsold compared with last year's. But this is not true. The apparent excess of last season's production over this year's is not real:—because, last year, as we have stated, even such silk as was required in the interior for our native manufactures, was brought into market, and the dealers in Shinshiu

and Kôshiu brought in and sold every description of silk, no matter whether from summer or autumn eggs. Whereas, this season, it is not so:—in order to meet the requirements of the interior, where silk was so scarce last year, and also, as so large an amount of money was distributed among the people during the South-Western war, as to have increased the demand for silk goods—a large quantity of raw silk has been required there. The factories have indeed been working day and night, and yet failed to meet the demand for goods. Thus the current of the trade in raw silk has changed, and the quantity taken to meet the country demand is not small. We regret that, having no means of ascertaining the exact amount, we cannot state it here; but that it has been very great is proved by the fact that, throughout the season, the price of raw silk has always been higher at the factories in the interior than in the Yokohama market. Thus, while the country consumption has so increased,—that the quantity exported, in spite of prices not being particularly high, should have exceeded that of the previous season, shows a real increase; and there is no doubt that, had prices gone as unusually high as they did last year, an additional excess of 3 or 4 per cent would have been observed.

Now that our campaign of 1878-79 is about to commence, it is our duty to investigate and report upon the state of markets both abroad and at home; and having established correspondences in Europe and in the interior, we propose to publish the information which has reached us:

IWASHIRO (in the Fukushima *ken*) The state of the silk in this district is as follows:—

"Although at the time when the silk worms' eggs were hatched, the sprouts of the mulberry were slightly injured by frost, the damage was not serious, and all was going on well until the end of last month, when—probably on account of the unsettled state of the weather, a species of worm has been produced on the mulberry leaves, and the people are now trying their best to sweep them away. The worms, owing to the unseasonable cold, decreased, at one time, their consumption of leaf, and it is therefore to be feared that the period of commencing the cocoons will be five or six days later than was estimated.

"As regards silkworm's eggs:—since the Notification freeing the trade has been issued, some of those which were intended to be used for the production of silk, have been diverted to the cards; but, owing to the unsettled weather, inexperienced producers have greatly failed, and the average amount, it is thought, will be less this year by about 100,000 cards, than that of late years. Regarding the amount of cocoon silk; though there is at present no sign of injury to the worm, still, as the quantity of mulberry leaves they eat is small, it is thought that the weight of silk got from their cocoons will be more or less decreased when they have finished spinning.

JÔSHÛ (in the Gunba *ken*) "The condition of the silk in this district was very favourable, and the worms were going

on well until about the middle of last month, but the growth of the mulberry leaves having been bad, they are expected to rise in price. Since the end of last month, the weather having been unseasonably cold, all the silk-growers have been very uneasy; however, the art of silk-growing having now greatly advanced, the worms have been skillfully protected and no serious harm has been done. Those, however, who rear only small quantities of worms must suffer more or less."

SHINSHU :—(Nagano *ken*) We have not yet received a full report of the state of silk in this district, but we hear that the number of silkworms produced this year is apparently in excess of previous seasons—but though there may be more or less increase in those intended for cocoons, the great increase is for egg-cards. The general prospects of the crop there are good; but, consequent on variable weather, a little damage is inevitable.

From these reports it would appear that, though we cannot call the silk-crop of this year quite successful; yet it is evident that no serious injury has been incurred. If, therefore, the production of the crop be effected without further obstacle, and the market prices were to go up as they did the year before last, it would certainly not be a difficult matter for the export to rise to the figure of 20,000 piculs.

As regards the state of silk in Europe; as we stated in No. 98 of this paper, a message which reached us on the 1st inst. from our London agency states that "the weather in France has been unfavourable, and it is feared that the silk crop will suffer." No doubt, from this, both ourselves and foreign merchants in Yokohama will benefit,—in proof of which we may mention that prices here have suddenly gone up about \$30 per picul. Again, a telegram from London of the 4th inst. states that "the growth of silk in Italy is free from injury, and a good crop is expected. Great injury has been done in France, and current prices at once rose about four francs and silk growers are in great trouble."

Such is the information which we have received up to date. We shall not fail to publish further results. In conclusion, we take the opportunity of mentioning one more matter of interest to our readers concerned in the silk-trade. That the manufacture of silk has lately improved, needs no mention from us: they themselves have enjoyed the profits of the improvement. But if we compare our cocoons of the best quality with the bulk of what is now produced, we cannot say that skill and labour have been yet as fully applied as might be. At the time when our best silk, made at the Tomioka filature, was valued at twenty-three shillings in Europe, the best Italian and French was worth thirty-one. This shows an increase on an average of \$200 per picul simply from superiority of reeling. Now if we pay more attention to this, it is beyond doubt that we might increase the average value of our raw silk, \$300 per picul. And suppose the yearly crop to be 16,000 piculs, the increase in value of our export would be \$4,800,000. Is not such a result as this worth striving for?

THE article quoted above is throughout thoroughly good, and its tone healthy and sound. The facts stated by the writer, and the conclusion at which he arrives, equally support us in the advice which we have been constantly re-iterating in these columns to Japanese silk-growers:—"Improve your silk and get more dollars for it."

The writer's *résumé* of the business of 1876-77 is a good one; there is no doubt that the native manufactories were starved, growers rushing their produce down to this market to secure the high rates ruling. The 'thousand bales' which he mentions as remaining at the end of the season, all went off, however, to native looms, as soon as the first new silk of 1877-78 appeared: he need not, therefore, have regarded this in his comparison of the exports of the two seasons. His statement that production was much stimulated by the high prices of that—to growers—

very satisfactory year, is perfectly correct; but one point he has omitted to mention—perhaps leaving it to his readers' intelligence to make for themselves. Mulberry trees have been very largely planted during the past ten years, and, last year, had begun to markedly increase the supply of food. Without these, the increased hatch of eggs would have led to no result, from lack of provender for the new-born infants. These new plantations are still, we are glad to see, being persevered with, for it is not yet by any means certain that Baron Liebig was wrong in attributing the original mortality amongst the Italian and French worms to exhaustion of the old mulberry trees and consequently diminished nutritive power in the leaf: an evil against which Japan appears to be fully guarded.

Our friend of the *Chiugai Bukka Shimpō* is not altogether right, either, in stating that the price of silks has been higher in the interior than in this market. Doubtless native looms have used a considerable quantity during this season, to make up for the deficiencies of the previous year, but the large stocks brought to the Yokohama market militate against his statement. The fact is that it is only true of the Taysam descriptions he enumerates—Aidzu, &c., which the native manufacturers readily use, but which foreigners will not export—except 'à vil prix,' or in a rush like that of '76-7.

His news from the various silk districts is of great interest; but he need not delude his readers or himself with the fear that anything is wrong with the crop. We shall have 25,000 shipping bales available for export, if we want them, and as sales on the basis of \$400 for No. 3 Hanks will remunerate all parties—grower, *shōnin*, middleman &c., he need not fear that a large and profitable business will not be done, if only his countrymen will bear in mind his concluding exhortation: 'Improve your reeling.'

Fresh evidence comes to us, mail by mail, in the shape of increased consumption abroad, and especially in America, of the enhanced popularity of Japan silk, since the filature system has been in operation here. Manufacturers in the United States, long wedded to the use of Hainin re-reels, begin to find out their unsatisfactory qualities,—such as loading, &c.; and if growers here will only persevere in the good work begun, sending us down *clean* silks of good bony nerve, Japan need not fear, though her production rose to 30,000 piculs per annum. Buyers will be found to take all she can produce, if only the quality be maintained in its course of improvement.

For the coming season, growers must look for steady, legitimate business, at moderate profits. Even with peace in Europe, no gambling can be expected. A supply of 75,000 bales from Shanghai, 25,000 from Canton, 25,000 from Japan, probably 15,000 from Bengal, and fairly good crops in Europe will be ample for all manufacturers' requirements throughout the world. The trade requires a year or two of abundant, cheap, raw material, that the masses of the population may again become consumers. Then shall we see again this great trade flourishing:—growers and dealers well remunerated, merchants earning commissions, dealers, dyers, weavers, manufacturers all busy and content,—and best of all guarantees of lasting prosperity, every servant-girl with a silk dress for Sunday, and all consumers, high and low—duchess, dressmaker, and dairymaid,—pleased and satisfied, with value for their money,—an unadulterated, good, lasting article at a fair price.

THE PRESS LAW AND ITS CRITICS.

IN OUR article on the New Press Law, last Saturday, we objected to the wording of the clause which gives power to the Minister of the Home Department to increase, at his discretion, the amount of the caution-money

deposited when a journal is started. But, arguing from the amounts of the fines named, we came to the conclusion that in no case would the deposit demanded exceed 1,500 *yen*, and on that basis founded the remarks we had to make. Each of our Yokohama contemporaries, however, has read the clause otherwise, and each makes it a special article in its indictment against the Bill, that the Home Minister has virtually, under the clause, the power to crush any paper which incurs his displeasure, by indefinitely, and without reason given, increasing the demand for deposit, until the paper falls under the pressure. We have made enquiry, and find that our own view is correct: in no case will the deposit be required to exceed 1,500 *yen*; and the increase is intended to be gradual, and to depend on the increasing circulation and consequent power of the paper for good or harm. Of course, in case of offence against the law requiring the infliction of a fine, this mulct would be taken from the deposit-money, unless otherwise paid; and in such case, the deposit would have to be restored to its previous figure before the paper would be allowed to proceed with its publication.

Recognizing, as we do, the imperative necessity of keeping a check, and a strong check, upon the native press,—we cannot regard these arrangements as severe. No newspaper can be started in France without giving bonds for a far larger sum than any likely to be demanded at first as caution-money from a Japanese journal, and the full amount that can be asked is only £300. But we quite agree with the *Japan Gazette* in recommending the Minister to consider whether the French system of giving security would not answer the purpose sought, as well as the actual locking-up of so much capital in deposit in a Bank.

Indeed the system of security by bail-bonds appears to us to offer an advantage to the Government over the mere deposit of money, inasmuch as it necessarily interests the guarantors of the new journal in its proper conduct. Three or four such god-fathers of a new-born paper, respectable house-holders, each liable for an amount increaseable up to a fixed sum as the paper grows in standing and influence, and together ultimately responsible for 1,500 *yen*, would certainly exercise a private consorship over an editor by no means ineffective, and far more restrictive to his pen than the prospect of a mere fine.

The translation which we have procured of the draft of the Law published by the *Akebono Shimibun* differs in other points from that printed by the *Japan Herald*, and copied by the *Japan Mail*, and on which the writers of articles in both papers founded their adverse criticisms. And we have to correct an error into which we fell ourselves, in common with our English contemporaries. The draft is under consideration of the *Daijō-Kuwan*, not of the *Genrō-In*. But, on the whole, we think it best to wait the publication of the revised draft, when it shall actually have become law, rather than publish, now, an amended translation of the edition put before the public already; and to that moment we defer, also, further criticism of the details of the law.

But we may bring a perhaps useful addition to the materials for discussion—when the time comes for it,—by rehearsing the points of an Act which was passed three months ago by the Governor-General in Council for the regulation of the Vernacular Press of India. Naturally, our native contemporaries know nothing of this, and it is chiefly for their use and instruction, therefore, that we mention it—to show them how even a constitutional Government, like that of England, finds itself occasionally compelled by circumstances to exercise the severest supervision over the Press. And it would be as well that our own countrymen here should make themselves acquainted with the provisions of this Vernacular Press Act, before blaming the Japanese Government,—which has only just succeeded in repressing a rebellion which threatened its

very existence; has just lost one of its most prominent members by the hands of assassins; and is harassed daily by reports of riot and disturbance in many parts of the country—for imposing a legitimate restraint upon an engine of which the engineers do not know the force, and which is far more easily used to harmful purpose,—to excite, irritate and delude an ignorant or half-educated populace;—than to good, to guide and instruct them to their real benefit.

To Englishmen unacquainted with India, one of the worst features of the measure is its apparent precipitancy. The Bill was introduced into Council, discussed, settled, passed; received, by telegraph, the approval of the Secretary of State,—and became law—all in one day, the 14th of March. Such haste in England would be called 'indecent' and, according to English law, nothing but a strained exercise of the Royal Prerogative, justifiable only by the most pressing danger, could do such a thing. And the Sovereign's advisers, meanwhile, would lie under risk of impeachment, and would be bound, at the earliest possible moment, to get an Act of Indemnity, passed by Parliament to purge them of what is, technically, a grave offence against constitutional law. But the Governor-General of India and his Council have entrusted to them—and very wisely—a larger power, subject only to the approval of the Secretary of State for India, and subject also, of course, to appeal to Parliament, which occasionally sees fit to reverse the decisions arrived at in Calcutta. The apparent haste and want of deliberation, with which measures are passed here, and the sudden publication of edicts when determined on, have often been the theme of rebuke or unfavourable comment by foreign journalists in Japan; but we are strongly inclined to believe that much the same motives operate here as in India for such apparently undue precipitancy; we are as fully willing to make allowance for the difficulties of the rulers, and appreciate as clearly the dangers attendant on the discussion of proposed measures by an excitable people. And the parallel may be pursued further. If Englishmen defend and approve restriction of the Vernacular Press in India;—and those who do not are in a small minority—surely we have no right to object to it here. There,—where the English Press is by no means treated with the same respect, and is far from having the same power, as at home, the chief cause that excites opposition to the fettering of the Native Press, is the fear lest the measure should be hereafter construed into a precedent for imposing some measure of restraint upon English journalists. Here, no such fear can exist, and—the matter lying entirely between the Japanese Government and the Japanese people,—foreigners have really no interest in the question, beyond the limits of absolutely abstract principles. That which we select as our guide in this, as in many other discussions, is the consideration whether the measure is calculated to strengthen, or weaken, the position of the Government. The greatest evil that could happen to Japan is a counter-revolution—a successful attack, by any class or section of its loosely united people, upon the existing central government. And nowhere would the effects of such disaster be more immediately felt than in our own foreign trade. Clearly, therefore, the first thing to be considered by foreigners is how any measure proposed is likely to affect the position of the government. 'Liberty of the Press' 'free thought, free speech, the birthrights of the people' &c. &c. are mere phrases, catch-words; and we see, as now in India—as not long ago in Ireland, when 'free speech' threatens danger to the Empire, Englishmen—journalist and statesmen alike—muffle up the 'palladium' in a cloak of 'necessity' and put it under lock and key, to keep it safe until quieter times. And what is England's occasional emergency, is at present Japan's constant condition.

Turning now to the conditions of the Indian Act, we think it will be found that the new Japanese Press Law compares with it even favourably in point of lenity. The Indian Government is empowered by this Act, not only to control the Vernacular Press of India Proper, but to seize, or prohibit the importation of journals published beyond our own borders. Bonds and securities may be required of printers and publishers by district officers, with the sanction of the several local Governments, and any such local Government may publish in its official *Gazette* a warning to any offending paper, disregard of which will be at once followed—on repetition of the offence—by confiscation of the security bonds, and also of all the plant and property of the offending journal. The necessity, however, of giving security-bonds may be avoided by submitting 'proofs' of all matter intended for publication to a governmentally appointed censor; but the publication of any matter not in such 'proofs' is punishable by fine and imprisonment.

The Act, of course, is a temporary one, and will only take effect in such districts as the Governor-General may specially indicate, and will operate for only such period as he may determine; and—as a matter of fact, the Act at present is not put in force, but is kept suspended over the heads of the native Indian journals in *terrorem*. But should any one of them venture on printing such an article, for instance, as that which, we quoted last month from the *Choya Shinbun*:—"England's Distress India's Opportunity," the Sword of Damocles would immediately fall.

We have referred to this matter with a double purpose. We wish to show Japanese journalists that they are not particularly or unprecedentedly ill-treated by their Government; and to remind our English colleagues that, before they attack the Japanese Government for imposing restraints upon so dangerous a machine as the printing-press, and so proudly vaunt our own freedom—they must look carefully in all the corners of that 'Empire on which the sun never sets' to be sure that similar 'tyranny' is not being exercised somewhere on our own fellow-subjects by our own enlightened, constitutional, parliamentary Government. It would be humiliating were any of the Japanese papers,—in reply to a diatribe against the Japanese Home Office for imposing such a law as this upon the Press,—to retort with such a '*tu quoque*' as we furnish them with to-day.

A NEW LEAF OF SCIENCE.

[Under the above title, a valued correspondent in London sends us the following contribution to our columns. It has, of course, no local interest, but we venture to think that it possesses interest of a wider and more general type. His argument that the mind has such influence over the body as actually to compel the appearance of the symptoms of such a frightful disease as that called *hydrophobia* appears perfectly sound. There are many other forms of *monomania* which have always been similarly accounted for. We do not recollect whether the disease has ever been noticed among the Japanese, whose dogs are of a particularly morose and savage type. It is odd that the only case which recurs to our memory of the symptoms of *rabies*, occurring in consequence of the bite of a dog in Yokohama, makes dead against our correspondent's theory: and we must fall back upon the suggestion at the end of his article for an explanation in this instance. We refer to the case of a child of five years old, which was bitten by a dog and died, after exhibiting all the symptom of '*hydrophobia*' in a severe form. These could not, from the tender years of the subject and consequent inability to read or reason, have been produced by effect of recollection, comparison, analogical deduction, or other mental process: and nothing but actual blood-poisoning could account for the fatal termination of the case. Unfortunately the surgeon who attended the child is dead and no professional record of the case is in existence, but the present writer was here at the

time and conversed with the surgeon frequently on the subject. It was a markedly severe case. We should be glad of information from any of our numerous medical readers here and in Tōkiō. Have any cases of '*hydrophobia*' come under their notice in their practice here:—is the disease known to the Japanese? We should be glad to transmit to our London friend any facts in corroboration of, or opposed to his theory, which can be gathered here.]

THE development of Science is most effectually opposed by professional interest. That interest may be political, legal, theologic and even medical. When the uprising science happens to coincide with any powerful interest then it rises like a rocket, and does not "come down like the stick;" but the behaviour of the medical world, observed in relation to a discovery at the Glasgow Infirmary reported in the *British Medical Journal* by Professor Macleod, presents a useful study for outside thinkers. The phenomena of what is called "*hydrophobia*" form the special object of the Glasgow physician's examination, but the facts which he freshly relates form but a small, though very important part, of a new scientific generalization. The report of Professor Macleod's discovery was introduced to the general public by the *Daily Telegraph* of December 26th 1876 and is quoted there from the *British Medical Journal*:—

"It was remarkable he" (Professor Macleod) said "that all of a sudden a disease should have arisen in Glasgow which none of the members of the medical profession there had ever seen before. The first patient, in the Western Infirmary, had told him that he was perfectly well, until one day he took up a newspaper and read of a man that had died of *hydrophobia*, and he was never of any use from that moment. The second told him exactly the same thing, and Sergeant Mc'Gilvray informed him that his mind was haunted night and day by a bite he had received, knowing, as he did, that people had died from '*hydrophobia*,'—till, at last, he had those extraordinary symptoms, which seemed really as much mental as bodily. There was a lot of nonsense talked about *hydrophobia* and they need not be afraid of it. Hundreds of people had been bitten in Glasgow during the last few months and there had been only three, if these were as he thought they were, cases of *hydrophobia*." A few days after this appeared in the *Telegraph*, the subject was resumed in the *Morning Post*, under the *nom de plume* of "Litterateur" and was continued by the same writer in the *Globe*. The day after the letter in the *Morning Post* (January 1, 1877), Mr. G. Berkeley, a well known follower of the hounds and well experienced in canine matters, wrote to the *Times*, stating his belief and that of "several of his medical friends" that the so-called disease was in many cases a mental production. In the same journal, confirming the Glasgow experience, the case of a gentleman was reported who was seized after a dogbite with this *hydrophobia* insanity, and whose flesh, when exposed, had not been touched by the dog's tooth. Popular belief formerly assigned *hydrophobia* to the hot or "dog-days." But lately it has been shown that the malady, like some forms of *hysteria*, is independent of heat. Throughout Australia and New Zealand, in all varieties of climate, there is no such thing as dog-venom and no *hydrophobia*. So in Brazil and other hot countries. Since the remarkable experiments of M. Pasteur and Dr. Tyndall, which extirpate the notion of spontaneous generation at all—the mention of spontaneous generation of poisonous venom in the saliva of a dog, where it is not natural, as in serpents and hornets, becomes an insult to a clear intelligence. If this effect of a powerful mental impression was only a solitary example of the formative qualities of mental force, it would be remarkable enough; but so many instances of this kind of operative energy are continually reported (as quoted in the *Morning Post* and *Globe* articles) producing not only disease, but death; that the new Leaf of Science which this Glas-

gow discovery opens, as respects the nature of the only known energy, Mind, demands most serious and profound study. The correspondence in the *Globe* is well worth careful study, especially the letters of T. M. O. (August 20th September 1st, 1877). Writing of a lunatic Asylum Ball, he says "Had 'Litterateur' been there, he would have found a practical application of his theory of the influence of mind upon disease. No. 25 fed on impressions, on imagination, and she poisoned herself with an impalpable and unsubstantial idea, 'jealousy' until ultimately she will become a raving lunatic, and death alone will put an end to the wreck produced by a fiction."

The French Medical School, the same writer points out, is quite aware of the force of mental impressions in producing *hydrophobia*. M. Vidal, indeed, says that the very name of the malady "ought not to uttered before one who 'has been bitten by a dog.'"

But the English Medical School, as represented by Sir James Watson in the *XIXth Century*, differs both from the French and Scotch.

In his late article, Sir James adheres to the old notions, says nothing at all of Professor Macleod's experience or of the correspondence in the *Morning Post*, *Times*, and *Globe*, and, while acknowledging the non-existence of the malady in Australia and elsewhere, is unable to add a line of explanation or suggestion.

There is a school of thinkers who, if they could, would evidently expel so inconvenient an entity as Mind from the universe. There is little enough of it in their own productions. The daily increasing records of its formative energy would, if only acknowledged, spoil a large amount of profitable business. That may be one reason why the English medical faculty are averse to the extension of this, to others, useful science. We have not space for the many curious facts which the late correspondence has reported, but we must make room for one which appears in the *Globe* of September 5th, 1877. "Dr. Babington used to tell a very amusing story of one of his successes. He had a patient who could not sleep, and on whom all his narcotics at last had no power. She said to him, 'Could you not mesmerize me?' 'I never tried to mesmerize; but if you wish it, I will.' He did try and succeeded. 'One day he said to her 'I must go to Leeds to-morrow, and I am sorry that I shall not be able to send you to sleep as usual. The only possible way would be to make the passes at Leeds about the usual time, three o'clock.' She consented to this arrangement. As he was returning from Leeds, he was lamenting among some medical companions that he had forgotten to make the passes. The next day, as soon as the lady-patient saw her physician, she said 'I was so much obliged to you yesterday. I went off quite nicely, at the very time you made the passes.'"

At the last general meeting of the members and friends of the Home for Lost and Starving dogs held in the rooms of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in Jermyn St., London, the Manager Mr. Scoborio stated that since 1867, there had been 90,000 animals brought to them by the police and not a single case of *rabies* had occurred. Many suspected dogs had been kept alive, and apart from their fellows, upon prepared food, but the result had always shown them to be free from that virulent disease. The manager had been bitten many times, but never experienced a symptom of what is called *hydrophobia*. In the last two members of the Quarterly *Journal of Mental Science*, W. Lanter Lindsay, M. D. of Perth, writes on 'Spurious Hydrophobia.' A case had occurred at Perth Infirmary, similar to those at Glasgow reported by Professor Macleod. A man had been bitten by a dog, which was never accused of madness, "nevertheless the affair so pressed on the man's mind, that he appeared to be in a maniacal state, but be-

came quiet after his removal to the Infirmary." He also quotes the case of another patient (mentioned in the *Scotman* of October 25th, 1879) "who died at Glasgow of *hydrophobia*. The first indications of the disease appeared after reading an account of a death by *hydrophobia*. To the psychologist, says Dr. Lindsay: "*hydrophobia* is invested with the highest interest, both of a scientific and practical kind, because it furnishes one of the best examples of the wonderful influence of mind over the body and of morbid mental conditions in the generation of fatal physical disease." I believe he says that the majority of the cases of *hydrophobia* are the direct fruits of morbid dread. After reading the report of Mr. Scoborio as to the 90,000 dogs and noting the fact of the non-appearance of any kind of disease in bodies dead from *hydrophobia*, the spontaneous generation of canine poison appears most like a medical myth. It is of course probable that cases of real *rabies* may have been produced in this manner. A dog biting furiously at a bone of putrid meat may have lacerated its mouth and so have inoculated itself with that venom; have bitten other dogs and persons while its saliva was thus poisoned, and so have produced the little real *hydrophobia* which has again produced the newspaper form, resulting wholly from powerful mental types. This is matter for very serious study also, as to the power of mental impressions not only in producing forms of disease, but in increasing and maintaining those produced naturally.

THE TREATY AND THE CONGRESS.

[The following review of Prince Gortschakoff's reply to Lord Salisbury's despatch, which we quote from *Vanity Fair*, at once saves us the labour of analysing it ourselves, and gives to our readers a far more valuable article than we could hope to write.]

THE reply to Lord Salisbury's despatch which Prince Gortschakoff has been so good as to write is a document at once impudent and contemptuous—impudent because it denies the truth of certain statements made by Lord Salisbury which are yet absolutely exact, contemptuous because it dismisses all his arguments without answering them. The comments on his assertions need be but short to be sufficient as a demonstration of this.

"It is not exact to say that the Treaty of San Stefano has created a new Bulgaria. Bulgaria existed, although in a state of oppression." Lord Salisbury nowhere says that the Treaty creates a new Bulgaria. He says it "erects" a new Bulgaria, and "creates a strong Slav State." But Prince Gortschakoff's counter-assertion that "Bulgaria existed" is one absolutely without any foundation known to history. There are Bulgarians, as there are Zingaris in Turkey and Gladstonians in England; but there has never been any more a Bulgaria than there is a Zingaria or a Gladstonia, and it is absolutely correct to say, as Lord Salisbury does, that by the Treaty a Bulgaria is first "erected"—for which we should read "invented"—and a strong State, which will be, not Bulgarian, but Slav, created.

"The Treaty of San Stefano has not placed the new State under the control of Russia."

But the Treaty provides (Art. VII.) that the whole "organisation of the future administration" shall be "elaborated before the election of the Prince" by "an assembly of notables, under the surveillance of an Imperial Russian Commissioner, and in presence of an Ottoman Commissioner," at a time when, by Article XXVI, the Porte has given up all authority in the country and when the Russian Commissioner is supported by an army of occupation. It further provides that the "introduction and superintendence" of this "organisation" shall be committed to a "Russian Imperial Commissioner" for two years, and that he shall have the right of enforcing his views of it by using troops for that purpose. Russia will have made the Constitution through the notables, who cannot but do the bidding of her Commissioner; she will have worked it for two years; and will have left it in charge of a Prince elected under the pres-

sure of her army. If this does not place Bulgaria under the control of Russia, nothing will.

The Imperial Russian Commissioner has only a right of superintendence in concert with an Ottoman Commissioner.

This is an assertion that takes one's breath away. There is not a word of "concert" in the article of the Treaty referring to this subject. The words are, "Sous la surveillance d'un Commissaire Impérial Russe et en présence d'un Commissaire Ottomane." What the "presence" will be worth of a solitary Turk in front of a Russian Commissioner backed by 50,000 men, may be imagined; but the point is that nothing in the world is said in the Treaty to show—as Prince Gortschakoff would now have us believe—that any "concert" or anything else than "presence" is required from the Turk.

"The Treaty in no wise places Bulgaria under the domination of a chief chosen by Russia. The governor will be elected from the administrative councils, with the confirmation of the Porte and the assent of Europe."

The Treaty provides that the Prince shall be "freely elected by the population" (there is not a word in it of election by "conseils administratifs") while the Russian troops are in occupation of the whole country, and able to dictate any election Russia pleases. As to the "confirmation by the Porte," the Treaty provides that the Prince, once so elected, shall be ("sera") "confirmed by the Porte with the assent of the Powers." It is clear that no Prince can be elected who is not suggested by, or at least agreeable to, Russia, that the Porte must confirm the election, whatever it may be—and that the Powers may assent if they please.

"The clause concerning the protection of members of the Russian Church must be much misunderstood in order to be compared with that of the treaty of Kainardji. The clause of the Treaty of Kainardji might embrace all the Christian subjects of the Sultan professing the orthodox Greek rite. The Treaty of San Stefano mentions exclusively monks, ecclesiastics, and pilgrims being Russian or of Russian origin."

True, but the claim in the Treaty of Kainardji never had or was admitted to have the force ascribed to it by Russia, whereas this clause absolutely gives "the right of official protection" to all Russian Ambassadors and Consuls in behalf of any human beings they may accept as Russian subjects, the manufacture of which has always been the method by which Russian consuls have made their livelihood.

"The affirmation that the whole of the stipulations, concerning the retrocession of Bessarabia, the extension of Bulgaria to the Black Sea, and the acquisition of Batoum, would render the will of Russia predominant in the Black Sea, is exaggerated."

That is a matter of opinion, and we prefer Lord Salisbury's to Prince Gortschakoff's. We do know that on the Caspian, where her positions are less important than they would be in the Euxine under this clause, the will of Russia is so predominant that she absolutely forbids the Shah of Persia to fly his own flag, even on a yacht, in his own waters.

"As to the acquisitions in Armenia they have but a defensive value. It is possible that England would prefer to see these strong positions in the hands of the Turks; but for the same reason Russia attaches value to their possession, in order not to have to besiege them at each war."

So Russia looks to future wars; so she has made this Treaty, not to secure peace, but to be put in a good position for further warfare! A more cynical betrayal of the purpose of the Treaty could not be made, and this, if it stood alone, would be sufficient to justify the resistance to its imposition on Turkey and Europe.

"The reproaches addressed to the Treaty concerning the indemnity are no better founded. It would have been simpler to see (in the Treaty) a design to spare Turkey as well as the interests of Europe."

This is delightful! An indemnity of two hundred millions is to be taken as evidence of a desire to spare ("ménager") Turkey! And the proof of this desire is that forty-four of the two hundred millions are left over for future arrangements, as to which the only certainty is that Turkey cannot pay them in money, and must therefore pay in some other way. Surely such a piece of cynical impudence never was penned.

These are some of the points of this reply. It amounts in effect to this:—"We mean to maintain the San Stefano Treaty as a whole. Some of the absolutely unimportant details—as, for instance, the boundaries of Bulgaria and the length of our occupation, you may discuss, if you please; but as to the rest, we mean to have it all, and your remarks

upon it are partly foolish; partly inaccurate, and altogether beside the mark."

Such is the reply which by some has been thought to be conciliatory.

DOES THE CONDUCT OF RUSSIA WITH REFERENCE TO THE TREATY OF SAN STEFANO JUSTIFY THE CALLING OUT OF THE RESERVES?

Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Salisbury, Lord Houghton, Lord Cairns, Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Hardy, Sir H. D. Wolff, Mr. Hanbury, Sir G. Bowyer, and Mr. Baillie Cochrane, say "Yes," because—

1. "The keynote of the policy, the 'diapason of the diplomacy' of the Government is the maintenance of public law in Europe as opposed to brute force.
2. The San Stefano Treaty between Russia and Turkey, and the Treaty of Paris, to which Russia and England are parties, cannot stand together, and Russia denies our right to discuss the former.
3. The San Stefano Treaty puts an end to Turkey in Europe; it makes the Black Sea a Russian lake; it creates a New Bulgaria, which will be a Russian dependency, and reach from the Black Sea to the Aegean; and it gives Russia Bessarabia and the control of the Danube.
4. The Government is still anxious to go into Congress; but it must be a real Congress, and not, as Russia would have it, a sham one.
5. Lord Salisbury's despatch has done more to preserve the peace of Europe than anything that has happened in the last two years.
6. The terms of peace stated in July last were to be submitted to a European Conference.
7. British interests were defined solely with a view to the conditions of England's neutrality during the war.
8. Calling out the Reserves is simply a precautionary measure; the regiments cannot conveniently be put into a state of efficiency in any other way.

Lord Granville, Lord Derby, Lord Carnarvon, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Selborne, Mr. Gladstone, Sir W. Lawson, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Richard, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Dillwyn, and Lord Hartington, say "No," because—

1. "It is no part of the business of this country to undertake without allies the defence of the interests of other nations or of the freedom of Europe."
2. The conduct of the Government has been one of "petty, paltry, pitiful provocation, and unworthy of the nation;" for the sake of a phrase it is fomenting a war that may deluge Europe in blood.
3. The worse the Treaty of San Stefano is, the more need is there of a Congress; there is no other way of setting it right.
4. The Government might have taken further steps to come to an agreement with Russia, either with or without a Congress.
5. Lord Salisbury's despatch mis-states the effect of the Treaty; it brings charges against Russia which are unfounded; it has dangerously excited the country against Russia, and has mainly created the present difficulty.
6. The Government were informed of the Russian terms of peace in July last; they made no protest then, and it is not consistent in them to do so now.
7. Nothing in the treaty touches British interests as defined by the Government when the war broke out.
8. If the present is an "emergency" justifying the calling out of the Reserves, we shall have them called out every three or four years.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE following Notification, extending the period for the exchange of the old *Daijokuwan* and *Mimbushô*

paper money of small denominations, was issued on the 7th instant:—

NOTIFICATION BY THE OKURASHO,
(FINANCE DEPARTMENT.)

No. 26B. 7th day, 6th month, 11th year of
Meiji (7th June, 1878.)

To *Fu* and *Ken*.

It is hereby notified that:—although notice was given by No. 19B. on the 4th of last month, that the paper money of and under the value of one *yen*, which was issued by the *Daijokwan* and *Mimbusho*, should be exchanged before the 30th day of the 6th month of this year:—As it would be inconvenient if such exchange could not be effected in distant provinces; the period of exchange has been extended until the 30th day of the 9th month; and it should be therefore notified to people under your control that after this period has expired, applications for exchange will not, under any circumstances, be entertained.

NOTE.—The period of circulation of this money will end on the 30th day of the 6th month.

(Signed.) OKUMA SHIGENOBU,
(Minister for Financial Affairs.)

THAT the experiment now being made here in the manufacture of Black Tea is being well watched both in England and America is evident. The *Produce Markets Review* has the following:—

"Some Japanese Congous were sent to this country for the first time last year, and the small experimental consignment, which was understood to be made by the Government of Japan, gave good promise for the future. This gives interest to the following, on the subject of alterations in the preparation of Japan Teas, so as to make them more suitable for the English market, which is taken from the *American Grocer*:—

"For some two or three years the question of making Oolongs and Congous out of the Japanese leaf has occupied the minds of the English and American houses in Japan. Some time ago the Japanese Government took the matter into consideration; in fact, imported a few Chinamen from the Black Tea districts of China to assist them in their experiments. The cause of the attempt to make Black Tea is, that Japan Tea, as cured now, is used almost exclusively in this country—England, the greatest Tea-drinking country, only taking a very small quantity. The Japanese Tea growers, having laid out so many Tea gardens, as the bushes increase in size, the crop is now larger than we can consume; the consequence is, the price has gone down so low that it does not pay the growers. Our consumption is about 20,000,000 lbs. of Japan Tea; England consumes 130,000,000 lbs. of Congous, none of which, as yet, has been obtained from Japan. The Japanese Government and the merchants are anxious to get some of this business. The experiments that have been made heretofore have been made upon the leaf after it has been 'basket-fired' by the Japanese, and have resulted in failure. In order to change the character of the Tea a change in the process must be made the moment the leaf is picked from the bush.

"The only difference between Japan Teas and Oolongs and Congous is in the different mode of curing. Japan Teas, like Green Teas, are not allowed to ferment. Oolongs are fermented to a certain extent; Congous are fermented to a much greater extent. The effect of the fermentation on the Tea is to make it richer and smoother. Tea in one respect is like tobacco: if you should take the tobacco leaf when first cut, and dry over a fire, it would be so sharp and bitter that it would bite the tongue so that no one could use it. In a letter dated Hiogo, May 20, we have the following information touching this subject:—

"Japan Oolongs.—An English firm here have received orders from some American house to attempt this, and they have imported fifty Chinese from one of the Tea districts, and are now working in the interior. It is generally believed that they are working under an expense of 3,000 dollars per month, besides native labour. Everything is kept very quiet, and it is only by chance one can get any information of their movements."

"In another letter of same date the movement is attributed to the Japanese Government. But no matter whether it is private enterprise or the act of the Government, the time is not far distant when we will have Oolongs and Congous from Japan in large quantities."

Of course all this is 'old news,' but we wish to let our Japanese friends know that they will certainly find a market if they can only make the Tea. But what we have especially to fear is that they will not be content to make the experiment this season on a scale sufficiently small, but will at once, without properly trying the London Market, and misled by reports on a few small specially prepared samples, commit themselves to the manufacture of large quantities of what we sadly fear will prove to be an article of small original strength and very little keeping

quality. We must all buy our experience—that which we get for nothing we never put any value on—but there is no reason why we should invest too large an amount at once in the purchase.

THAT the world is getting wiser as it gets older, the universal resistance which is now being made everywhere to the denudation of a country of its forests would seem to prove. Read in connection with what we have recently written, and the effort made by this government to check and remedy the evils of disafforestation, the following report from Italy will be read with interest. We take it from the *Echo*.

"A remarkable illustration is added to the list of climatic changes brought about by the process of deforestation by what is now taking place at Rome, where the topic has excited an angry controversy. All authorities agree that the felling of the woods has not only altered the influences of the climate in Greece, but also diminished the fertility of the soil: a similar result has operated in the once abounding provinces on the coasts of the Dead Sea; and the same fact was remarked, under both its aspects, by those who had in charge the magnificent Euphrates Survey. It is even the belief of many that like causes have produced like effects in some districts of England; while in France the theory finds universal acceptance. In the Roman instance, to the want of wood is attributed, in a large proportion, the proverbial unhealthiness of the City; and so important is the subject considered, that protests in connection with it have been made in the Roman Parliament, one member of which undertook to demonstrate, a short time ago, that the disappearance of trees was almost invariably followed by the appearance of fever. The tree, he said, is the great enemy of fever, though something may be allowed, perhaps, for rhetoric, when he insists that, for every one cut down, a man or possibly many men, would die. Certainly, however, he cited two conspicuous examples in which, when the woods of Italy had been hewn away, territories previously salubrious became hotbeds of malaria. At present it is proposed to destroy an extensive and beautiful grove, of two centuries' growth, on the banks of the Tiber; and a sort of local panic has been created, as on all hands it is declared that this must be most prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants. Whether or not the danger be so serious as is imagined can scarcely, of course, be determined; but the question is an interesting one, and it might be worth the while of practical philosophers to investigate it a little further. Among the characteristics of all improvident nations, the wholesale destruction of forests has generally been remarkable; yet the circumstance is probably due to ignorance rather than to recklessness, though it is an ignorance much to be deplored, since Europe is not the New World, that it can afford unlimited clearings."

And even in America,—at all events in the Pacific States,—the people are waking up to the dangers they are incurring by the reckless destruction of their natural woods,—without any provision for replanting,—which has been going on so long. One of the San Francisco papers had, lately, we noticed, a very earnest article on the subject, attributing to this cause much of the deterioration of climate lately noticed, and urging immediate legislation to stop the growing ill.

THE *Hochi Shimbun* takes occasion, under cover of an expression of gratitude for the new Law constituting Provincial Assemblies, to expose and attack an evil which has doubtless existed hitherto and which probably this new arrangement for partial self-government of the provinces will go far to remedy. The writer points out the evil, effect of too much 'zeal' exhibited by provincial governors and other officials, who—guessing at, or imperfectly understanding, the intentions and wishes of the Central Government,—have not infrequently annoyed and distressed the people by either exceeding their instructions, or—in some instances, acting on mere supposition and conjecture, without any instructions at all. It is very likely that these evils have been rampant, and the instance given by the *Hochi Shimbun* of unnecessarily costly school-buildings having been erected in poor villages has been verified by frequent observations of foreign travellers in the interior. The people are now, by the new Law constituting pro-

vincial and municipal assemblies, endowed with a very considerable power of check upon such extravagance, and it is to be hoped that, by wise selection of members of these synods, and by the moderation and self-restraint of the members themselves in Council, the people will show themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them, and their fitness to admission to a still larger share in the government of the nation. One most important point will, we hope, be conceded in the bye-laws. It is much to be regretted that it was not mentioned in the original regulations. We refer to the reporting of the debates by the newspapers. It is true that it is provided that,—except on extraordinary emergency, the sittings are to be held in public; but we know that, in Japan, this is not held to necessarily include permission to the newspapers to report proceedings. As, however, this concession was made in the case of the session of the *Chihokusan Kuwaigi* this year in Tôkiô we may hope that the same liberty will be accorded to the provincial press. The Press is the best educator of the people, and the best check on any such abuse of authority as that complained of by the *Hochi Shimbun*.

A LETTER appeared in the last number of this Review criticising the management of the Mitsu Bishi Company. This is decidedly the most important private business enterprise yet started in this country, and—considering that foreign trade interests are largely affected by its good or bad management, it is only natural that the proceedings of its Directorate should be very jealously watched, and such reports of its progress as may be made from time to time, submitted to searching cross-examination. This journal has, we can say with confidence in any reasonable man's belief, consistently pursued the course marked out for it in its earliest manifestoes:—it has given a liberal, unbought, independent support to the Government; has devoted a large amount of labour to the consideration and discussion of commercial subjects, interesting alike to natives and foreigners engaged in the Japan trade. We have never sought to conceal the fact that the interests of foreign traders are fully as much kept in our view as those of the natives of Japan when writing on such subjects: believing, as we do, that all are inextricably mixed, and that all parties are equally interested in the country's prosperity. Iwasaki, the man put forward as the representative member, if not the actual controller, of the Directorate of the Mitsu Bishi Company, the man who, in an English witness-box, stated on oath that he was the sole and only owner of the whole fleet,—lately put forth a document purporting to be a Report on the condition of the property under his charge, and bewailed enormous losses, in spite of his receipt of a large subsidy, and of earnings, during the South-western Rebellion, by the employment of his ships as troopships, which must have amounted to a very large sum. This extraordinary statement was quite incredible, and was justly treated as unworthy of belief by all the foreign journals both of Japan and China, which reviewed his Report. The only points on which foreign critics differed were these:—was Iwasaki's motive in making such a statement prefatory to an enhancement of rates of freight and passage-money, or did he hope to screw an enhanced subsidy out of the people; or—was it possible that even the enormous receipts of the line could have been muddled away in mismanagement and peculation? A correspondent, writing under the pseudonym of 'Nauticus,' has commenced, in this Review, a thoroughly exhaustive examination of the history and affairs of the Company, a quite legitimate and most useful work; and we have no doubt that, when he has finished his task, it will be acknowledged that he has deserved the thanks of both foreigners and natives, of private merchants whose pecuniary interests suffer, and of officials whose reputation is endangered by the mal-administration of the Company's affairs. It is quite natural that some one should be put up to make out a defence; and we are sorry to say that here it is equally natural that the line of defence adopted should be personal abuse. A letter is addressed to another paper, signed, of course, 'Fair Play' (Oh, fair play! what rogueries are committed in thy name!!) in which no attempt is made to refute 'Nauticus' facts or figures, but the endeavour is made to discredit him by insinuating that he is a discharged

officer of the Company, or one still in their employ, guilty of a breach of trust.

The etiquette of the press appears to be non-existent in Yokohama. Were a letter to be addressed to this Review, in reply to another which had appeared in the columns of a contemporary, it would be returned to the writer, with the recommendation to send it to its proper address, that of the journal in which the controversy had originated. This is the practice in every country where press etiquette is properly understood. Such, however, is apparently, not at present the practice in Yokohama. If remains, therefore, only for us to say that, beyond giving a flat denial to the statements of 'Fair Play' respecting the personality and status of our correspondent 'Nauticus,' neither that gentlemen nor ourselves can take any notice of this letter. We impeach Iwasaki and his confederates, native and foreign, of gross mis-management of a promising and most important national enterprise, if not of more flagrant offences, and we intend to persevere in the exposure which has been commenced of their proceedings, in the hope of moving the Japanese Government to withdraw their support from them, and to give it to more capable and more reliable men, fitter to be trusted with such important interests. Our columns are open to any attempt to refute our arguments, to challenge our statements, to invalidate our deductions—but it must not be expected that any further notice will be taken of any communication on the subject made to our contemporaries. If one of them will undertake the defence of the Mitsubishi Company in its leading columns,—that is another matter: it will then be open to us to reply: but letters in criticism of our own articles or of 'Nauticus' letters must be addressed to this journal, if notice of them be desired. If addressed to any other, the public will understand, as well as we shall, that the writer shrinks from the combat '*en champ clos*' and he must not be surprised if he is treated with the contempt he will deserve.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

ON CREMATION OF THE DEAD IN JAPAN, By Professor DR. W. DOENITZ.

(Translation specially for the 'Japan Times'.)

CREMATION of the dead, which is so much discussed at present in Europe, is a custom which has been practised for more than a thousand years in Japan, and which, after having been prohibited for a time, has now for about four years been carried on eagerly. It is not however an original Japanese contrivance, nor does it seem to be connected in its origin with any known religious doctrine.

The first historical traces of cremation of the dead reach back to the end of the seventh century of the Christian era (about 698), that is, with tolerable accuracy, a century after the introduction of Buddhism into Japan. At that time, during the reigns of the Emperor *Mombu* (*Mon-mu*) a celebrated priest named *Dôsho* died at the age of 72, after having directed on his death-bed that his corpse should be burned. His disciples brought the body of the deceased to Kurihara and carried out the desire of their master. As they were about to collect the ashes, and divide them amongst themselves, a violent blast of wind swept away the last earthly remains of their teacher, and frustrated their intention.

Just at this time, the Imperial palace in Miako was built, and in connection with this, the disciples applied to the Government to erect a temple in memory of their much honoured teacher in the flourishing capital. To this day there is a temple in Kioto named *Zen-In* which is dedicated to the memory of this priest, who is said to have been the first in Japan whose body was solemnly burnt.

This destruction of the corpse by fire, called *Kuasô*, seems to have very soon found sympathy in the highest circles, because it is said that only four years later, the Empress *Jito*, who had abdicated in 696, was given over to the fire after her death. Thenceforth it began to be generally employed, without however completely supplanting *Dôsô* or interment.

As a peculiar phenomenon, it is worthy of note that a Buddhist sect took up the matter, and made cremation a

duty of all its followers. This is the *Ikko shin*, lately called the *Ikko shin shiu*, generally called by the people *Monto*, which was founded at the beginning of the 13th century by the Priest Shinran. As nothing is more remote from Buddhism than the burning of the dead, this shows very distinctly the peculiar manner in which this religion developed itself in Japan.

For almost twelve hundred years this custom was maintained. It was, no doubt, all the more practised by the people as it was followed by the Imperial House. But after the death of the Emperor Gokōmyō in 1654, as the usual practice was about to be carried out, a certain fish merchant named Hatshibo complained that this was a cruel and barbarous custom, which it was time should be abolished. The Government took this into consideration, and from that time forth the bodies of the Emperors were not burned.

After this, cremation seems to have been maintained by the *Monto* sect alone; but after the Revolution it was suppressed even here. A year or two afterwards it was again permitted, and now, not only the *Monto* sect, but also many, and perhaps all of the Buddhist sects burn the bodies of their deceased followers.

The reason why the other sects have also become followers of cremation, may I think be referred to the small expense of that process. It is well known what serious losses the temples have lately suffered, and we can easily perceive that Buddhism in Japan now depends wholly on the liberality of its followers. But it seems that cremation offers greater advantages to the priests than interment, because the grave clothes which are made of new white cotton stuff, are buried with the corpse, while in the case of cremation nothing but the corpse of the priest is consumed.

As to the manner in which the operation is conducted, I am able to communicate the following details. In the most ancient times, the burning took place in the open air, as we may perceive from the incident of the blowing away of the ashes of Dōsho. But subsequently this was also the case, for I have been assured of this fact by old servants of the places of cremation who also showed me the places raised slightly above the surface of the earth, which were used for this purpose.

Since permission was granted anew to practice cremation, it can no longer be done in the open air. Very far however from erecting a costly Siemen's apparatus, or something similar, it is done in an incredibly simple manner. A rough wooden house is erected over several fire places lying side by side; the walls are covered with clay, and frequently have two air holes situated on two opposite sides near the ground. The beams and rafters are covered by a roof crowned with a tall round chimney. The fire places are in the shape of a tray, in very shallow hollows of the ground, at most three feet in length and one and a quarter in breadth. Across these trays three or four split logs of wood are placed; and on these the body wrapped in rice straw is laid, the legs stretching beyond the fire-place. By the side of the corpse several other logs about a foot and a quarter in length are placed in a slanting direction, and the fire is lit, the fir tub which is commonly used for the conveyance of the body being also placed on the heap. The burning does not take place in the open, but still the fire is quite an open one, which is however, not fed very vigorously, lest the beams and rafters, which are only twelve feet high, should catch fire.

The above description shows that the corpse lies over a hollow, so that the flames may also catch it from below. The legs, which at the commencement lie outside the flames, are pushed into the fire by the attendants when the burning is somewhat advanced. Although this plan is so simple, a small quantity of wood is sufficient to consume the corpse, so that only the bones, which are burned to a white or grey colour, alone remain. The completeness of the destruction is explained by the fact that in its fat the body itself possesses a large quantity of good material for burning. Coinciding with this, the attendants have observed that very thin bodies burn more slowly and with greater difficulty than those, the fat of which has not disappeared through long illness. The process lasts from seven to eight hours.

We can gather from the expense how small the quantity of wood used must be. Here, as in many places in Europe, three classes which pay 75 cts, 1.50 yen, and 1.75 yen res-

pectively have been established. A very bad clay urn is also provided out of this sum for the purpose of holding the bones. If 1.75 yen is paid, the corpse is not taken out of the tub, but is consumed with it. It occurs less frequently that the family have a large pile of wood put up for the corpse, in which case a price in proportion, namely five yen, is paid.

The process takes place at night and commences generally at eight o'clock in the evening. Next morning the relations find nothing but the bones among the ashes of the straw when they come to bear away the remains of the deceased, in order to have them blessed in the temple, and then put in an urn and buried.

In many cases the teeth are separated from the bones, in order to have them interred apart in the native place of the deceased, if he were burned at a distance from it. It also occurs that the collected bones are sent for interment to the birthplace of the deceased. The urn can be buried on the seventh day after the body was consumed, or from that time at periods of a week until the end of the seventh week.

In one place of cremation I saw a small box containing coins and a shell with yellow sand. The custom of giving the dead small coins was still maintained here. Ten *mon* pieces (10,000 *mon*=1 Dollar) in different numbers, either nine, or as in Tōkiō six, are chosen for this purpose.

But as in this manner a large quantity of small coin disappeared from circulation, people are now content, in consequence of an edict, with printing the coins on paper and giving this to the deceased;—a custom which is also practised in China.

Up to the present I have not been able to ascertain the meaning of the sand. It reminds one of the Buddhist practice of strowing a little sand of Kishiu from Koyasan mountain, in order to remove the death stiffness. When this sand called *Doshu*, is not to be got, a little earth or clay which one scrapes off the wall, is sufficient; and if no priest be present, a favourite of the deceased performs the miracle. At the present time in Tōkiō there are five places where cremation can be performed, the receipts of which are so high, that single temples, which possess no ground at this place, and cannot erect a house for burning elsewhere, acquire possession of a little piece of ground within the concession with the house, at ten times its real value.

At the conclusion of this paper, a discussion took place in which Dr. Langgard observed that he could not well understand how, with such an amount of water as is contained in the human body, such a simple method as the use of a small open fire could produce the desired result; it must be that the softer portions of the body were previously removed.

Dr. Schultze remarked that experience derived on the battle fields of the Franco-German War, is opposed to the statements of the author. Even with the help of petroleum no satisfactory result was arrived at.

Mr. Mayet mentioned that he saw at Canton a stone fire place which was used only for the burning of priests.

At the subsequent meeting of the Society Dr. Doenitz reverted to the subject of the cremation of the dead, and in answer to the objections raised at the last meeting, explained that from his own observation he was now in a position to confirm what he had already stated. The body is burned with a small open fire, without the intestines being removed previously.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, June 14, 1878.

THE *Gaelic*, twenty-one days out from San Francisco, arrived on Sunday last, and the *Malacca* on Tuesday, bringing the En-

glish mail of April 26th. The *Tibre*, with the Marseilles mail of May 4th, left Hongkong for this on the 10th inst. at noon. The *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai and ports, arrived yesterday morning. The *Tanais* left on Wednesday morning, with the French mail due in London August 5th. Two mail steamers were despatched to Hakodate during the week. The *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports, left on Wednesday last at 4 p.m. The *City of Peking* is advertised to sail on the 19th inst. for San Francisco.

We are sorry to note from our Bombay files, that the P. & O. Company have experienced a loss. The steamer *China*, which was to have taken the English Mail of the 13th May, was on the night of the 9th found to be on fire forward, and so great a hold had the flames got of ship and cargo, that she had to be scuttled and sunk to save her from total destruction. An attempt will be made to raise her, but the work will be attended with much difficulty and expense, as the vessel was rapidly embedded in sand. Fortunately no interruption of the mail service took place, as the *Kashgar* arrived from China in time to take on the English mails instead of her unfortunate sister ship. The divers who examined the vessel report that beyond the destruction of her internal fittings, the ship is uninjured, but she is eleven feet deep in the mud. The fire is believed to have originated spontaneously, from heating of the cargo, consisting of cotton and oil-seed.

Another account states that she was not actually scuttled, though this was at one time in contemplation, and she had been towed to a mud bank for the purpose; but that so much water had to be pumped into her fore compartment—and all retained there by her water-tight bulkheads, that her draught was so increased forward that she took in water herself at the scuttles of the orlop deck, the large glasses of which had been shattered by the action of the fire. She therefore grounded on the mud at low water, and the rising tide then filled her up to her spar deck beams: after which she settled down as we have mentioned above.

It is curious that both these accounts are from one paper: it does not say much for the sub-editing that such a contradiction should have been allowed to remain unexplained in a Mail Edition: but we are told in the same number, that for the third time in as many successive seasons, the ice supply has failed, which may well account for much carelessness in proof-reading and 'making up' in newspaper offices. The Bombay people, we see, are so irritated by this third failure of the Tudor Company to attend properly to their business, that the threat so often made, so often withdrawn, is at least to pass into execution, and another Company is started to produce artificial ice.

The Congress should have met yesterday, but, up to the moment of writing, the Baron has vouchsafed us no word to tell us that the event has actually taken place. Meanwhile Austria arms; and if Russia is going into the discussion prepared to argue on the basis of Prince Gortschakoff's reply to our dispatch, Congress means little more than War delayed. From India we hear of preparations actively pushed forward to dispatch more troops directly the word is given, the spirit of the people at home continues to rise, the reserve men have come in most readily and cheerfully—an extremely small percentage of absentees being remarked, not more than illness or accident would account for,—and if England is forced to take up arms, Englishmen abroad may receive the news with a calm confidence not usually justifiable; for we have never, at any similar crisis, been so well prepared.

Here, the political horizon is by no means clear. The loss of Okubo is severely felt, and it is evident that the blow of his assassins fell where it could do the greatest harm. Arrests continue to be made daily, and from various parts of the country come rumours of disturbance, riot, and dismay. The subscriptions to the New National Loan do not come in by any means as freely as we should like to see: up to the latest publication of the total, barely five millions have been raised out of the twelve-and-a-half asked for, and of this a large proportion must be called 'perfunctory'—contributions by Government Banks and subsidized public Companies: the savings of the people, if any such hoards exist, have not been tempted forth. There is an uneasy feeling abroad, without much definite, open discontent. Evidently a large party existed in Tosa, which sympathized with the Satsuma rising. Mutsu, the Vice-President of the *Genro-in*, was deprived of his office and placed in arrest on the evening of the 11th instant, his complicity with this party having been discovered. No sympathy can be felt with these men, who were evidently preparing to share the plunder, though willing to let Satsuma bear all the risk. The Minister for War, Yamagata, went down suddenly to Osaka on the 12th instant, his office being temporarily filled by Oyama, a Vice-Minister of the Department. Ministers continue to be carefully guarded, and the Government even appears anxious that extra precautions should be taken by the

Representatives of Treaty Powers. We wish the Government well through the present troublous time.

We hear from Kobe that considerable excitement is imminent there, consequent on an approaching election of a Member of the Municipal Council. Happy Kobe, to possess a Council! and thrice happy, to be able to get up an excitement about anything!! On the ground

'Humanum nihil a me alienum puto,'

We devoted two or three columns of this Review, some weeks ago, to an exposure of an attempt by a discontented minority of the inhabitants of that charming little place—who don't know when they are well off, apparently, and overlook the fact that the charms of their place of residence are entirely due to the wise expenditure of the public funds by their Municipal Council—to disconcert the arrangements of that most excellent Board of Guardians of the public weal. We took to pieces an ingenious, but most palpably fallacious 'Financial Report,' in which the malcontents tried to prove a charge of extravagance against the Council, by the not quite novel method of lumping together sunk capital and annual charges, and debiting five years with the expenditure of eight; and we gave them some sound, wholesome advice. As we had always looked upon the *Huigo News* as a moderately respectable journal, we were surprised to find ourselves, and the writer of the article referred to, assailed, in leader after leader, and in a whole bevy of anonymous 'correspondent's letters,' in language of which we had hitherto believed the *Tokio Times* held a monopoly. The sequel of the business is, that a vacancy having been created in the Council by the temporary absence of Mr. Groom, against whose expenditure, as an active member of the Working Committee, in beautifying the town and keeping it in order, the wrath of the 'economists' was mainly directed—that gentleman, as the representative of the party of order and good governance, challenges the malcontents to a trial of strength by presenting himself for re-election. They put up a candidate of their own, and from what we hear by private letter, are likely to be conclusively and very properly beaten. We shall be extremely glad to hear of this result, as really it would be a thousand pities if Kobe, which is now—solely owing to the unceasing care of a few old residents—quite the show settlement in Japan, and a most bright example to ourselves, were to be spoilt by niggardly, false economy of those who object to pay a trifle for light, cleanliness, and beauty; and who are content to let a whole settlement go to ruin, and be spoilt for their successors, so they may but save a few cents per month on their own ground-rents for themselves. Not without something of that satisfaction with which one hears of justice overtaking evil-doing, do we hear, too, that, as an outcome of this trouble, a newspaper is to be started on the 1st of July, in opposition to the *Huigo News*. A journal which has deserved so ill of its public as this, by lending its aid, as it has done, to the attempt to deteriorate the settlement to which we refer, deserves to experience opposition, and we have little doubt that it will have cause to repent its ill-judged partisanship.

The 'siege of the Grand Hotel' has constituted our little excitement and chief topic of talk during the week. In our last, we noted its purchase by the enterprising proprietors of the Oriental Hotel, Messrs. Bonnat; but 'possession is nine points of the law,' and the purchasers found considerable difficulty in entering on the enjoyment of their property. Some difficulty about ownership of the furniture appears to have been the trouble, and an ancient proprietor was found entrenched in the citadel and refused to give up possession. Fortunately Messrs. Bonnat were without native auxiliaries, as the garrison (i.e. the house and table-boys) were prepared to resist to the death. Legal *parlementaires* of course immediately appeared on the scene, the place was declared in a state of siege, and the non-combatants (in an hotel one can hardly call lodgers *bouches inutiles*) got orders to quit. Hurried packing, much bad language, general stampede, rejoicings at rival hotels, and a great rush to the Club, of course resulted. The next move observed, after thirty-six hours of closed doors, was the erection of a scaffolding all round the fortress, but whether this was for facilitating throwing-in of hand-grenades or for cleaning the windows, was not apparent. Happily, however, some compromise appears to have been arrived at; the commander of the garrison was, with all due ceremony, lifted out of a sally-port, the garrison marched out with all the honours of war, and three tournaments, in three Consular Courts are, we believe, arranged to take place as a final close of the campaign. Messrs. Bonnat will doubtless entertain all the late guests at an inaugural champagne tiffin, to celebrate their own victory, and to welcome their customers' return.

Of course, in common with every one else in the place, we knew, last Saturday morning, that the result of the Derby of

1878 was:—*Sefton 1, Insulaire 2, and Childeric 3.* But, as we announced some time ago, we do not see the advantage to our readers of reprinting for them the telegrams received during the week by the morning and evening papers, nor—as we do not contribute to M. Reuter's profits, do we think it fair to avail ourselves of the news he sells, in such a way as to compete with our neighbours whose names are on his subscription list. We therefore refrained from publishing the Derby news last Saturday, and our readers must allow us to register it now—'a day after the fair'—for our own private record. *Sefton* is an appropriate name for the winner of this great race: the bulk of Lord Sefton's estates lying in Derbyshire, and Sefton, the village from which he takes his title, being not far from the county town. By the way, we ought to have heard whether *Pilgrimage* has added an 'Oaks' leaf to her chaplet, but M. le Baron is not so polite, apparently, as he ought to be, and has forgotten to chronicle for us the winner of the Ladies' Blue Riband.

Our own contribution to the records of the sporting world this week has been a fragmentary sort of Regatta in three acts, performed on Saturday, Wednesday and Thursday. The success of these entertainments always depends so entirely on the caprice of the 'clerk of the weather' that no one could complain that the fun was spread over so many days: and on this occasion, he was in such unusual good humour that the most inveterate grumbler had not the slightest excuse for a growl. On Saturday there was enough wind, but not too much, for the sailing matches and men-o-war cutter rowing races; while, on the other two days, a sea like a mill-pond gave exactly such a course as was wanted for the Club fours and pairs.

As the writer rejoices in such a sensitive diaphragm, or has such a delicate epigastrium, whichever may be the correct surgical form of expression for indicating that he is singularly liable to sea-sickness (when a child, he used to be sea-sick on the ha'penny boats between London and Hungerford Bridges)—that boat-sailing is to him not a pleasure, but a pursuit which he abhors from the bottom of his heart—or his stomach, he therefore entrusted the task of reporting Saturday's proceedings to a friend who represented himself as fully competent to the task. The copy has come in and here it is:—but we receive it with the gravest suspicion, and give it to our readers with a most emphatic disclaimer of responsibility for its correctness. To us, it has not the faintest 'sniff of the briny.' There is nothing in it about 'hauling your wind,' or 'sailing on a taut bowline;' not a word about 'tacks' or 'sheets,' and even the familiar 'marlingspike' is never mentioned. He might have given us a 'marlingspike.' But any how—'vast heaving—bear a hand, my hearties, and belay:—

"The morning of Saturday last, the day fixed for the Regatta, was ushered in by a stiff breeze from the North-East, just the very thing we did not want. Phobus appeared at his best, bright, temperate, and soothing, but Boreas was out of place; rough and blustering, rolling a heavy swell over the bay, and rousing Oceanus from his lair. Zephyr would have been a more appropriate genius to preside over the business in hand. We do not believe that a successful regatta has ever been acknowledged to have been held in Yokohama; certainly not one that has failed to provoke cavilling and ill-feeling. But we may infer that this, in spite of many short-comings, was fairly successful; as at present the only out-spoken grumbler has made his grievances public in the form of a string of queries like a child's catechism, and seeks for answers to things which he says: 'No fella' can understand.' However, as his chief grievance is that the race for open boats was started with a fair wind, instead of sending a score of boats in the teeth of a stiff breeze, we dare say the Committee could find an easy answer, if it were worth their while. We should like to see this 'ancient mariner' cocking his weather eye at some twenty boats trying, in the teeth of a stiff breeze to make an offing,* and we will leave him to the pleasing contemplation of his pet theory of navigation, and turn our attention to the races themselves. The first, for yachts under 30 feet, which was started at 10.15 a.m. requires little description; as Mr. Hiltz' *Snowflake*, 17 feet, took the lead soon after starting, and well rigged, accurately ballasted, and carefully sailed, won by some twenty minutes from her bigger, balloon-belly-sailed rivals. Then followed the race for open boats, of which twenty, out of the twenty-one entries, came to the post. The unexpected number of starters necessitated the adoption of a novel plan of starting, as applied to sailing boats. They were started from a hawser, stretched from a ship's stern to the end of the hatoba, and, from this,

an even start was effected. At the signal-gun, the boats cast off from the line, set sail, and a cloud of white-topped dots scurrying over the bay presented as pretty a sight as landmen or even an 'ancient mariner' could wish to see. The bright sun shone on glistening sails, lending to each a special tint, as, in a cluster, the boats stretched away with a fair breeze towards the Light-ship. The Russians spread their brand-new canvas—kites, sky-sails, and all—but their efforts were of no avail, as Mr. Whitfield's *Zephyr*, making the Light-ship without a tack, gained an advantage which she never afterwards lost; in spite of the efforts of the *Boyan's* cutter, which was admirably sailed, to overtake her, as they came down the back-stretch to the powder-hulk. In fact, the wind was too fair, out, round and home again; it was better than a 'soldier's wind' and no opportunity was given for manoeuvres. The *Zephyr*, as stated, won the first prize, the *Boyan's* cutter the second, while the third fell to the *Thabor*, after a close finish with the *Vladnick*. So ended the morning part of the programme.

"In the afternoon, as the Club races had to be withdrawn on account of the heavy sea, the men o' war's boats had to be made the most of. Worse than all, the heavy sea prevented many ladies reaching the *Thabor*, the head-quarters of the Club for the day, which had been kindly placed at its disposal by the Lighthouse Department, and where preparations had been made for their reception. The band of the *Armile*, courteously lent by Admiral Duburquois, played on board during the afternoon, and made the hours pass pleasantly, while the rival tars struggled for victory. Among the men o' war's men, the Americans had no equals. First and second respectively the *Monocacy's* racing cutters were placed for the two-mile race; and in the All-comers' race, the same crews had the contest to themselves, as, through a heavy sea, their second cutter strove to reverse the decision of the previous race, but without success."

Turning now to the club rowing, of which we do know something, we have first to give a cheerful crow, after the manner of the sporting prophets, at the correctness of our prophecy in last week's issue. The club races had to be postponed and they were fixed for Wednesday and Thursday respectively, thus dividing the labour, to the great benefit of the competing crews. On Wednesday, the water was perfect for the four oared race; shortly after the time appointed, the boats made their way to the starting point; there, some delay occurred in getting them into position, owing to the want of alacrity of one of the crews in taking their place, and to the strong tide setting out that carried the other boats out of theirs, thus crowding out the outermost boat. For this delay, the Committee cannot be held responsible, it is sufficient if the competitors reach the starting point in time, as everyone ought to know who is cognizant of racing, the delays occasioned at the starting point are beyond their control. However, it has now become the fashion in some quarters to harp on this one string, as a stock complaint; we may as well at once declare that on a holiday we should take 'no note of time,' for the prolongation of pleasure adds to the zest thereof. As soon as the fours could be got into position, they were sent away to an equal start; at first it looked as if our remarks of last week were to be borne out to the letter, as in the first dozen strokes, Mr. A. H. Dare, in the new boat, made up his penalty; but then from some unaccounted reason, he fell back and thenceforth was out of the race. Mr. Richmond, rowing thirty-two strokes a minute, forced his boat ahead, gaining slowly but surely, he increased the lead, until, passing the Pacific Mail wharf, he was three-quarters of a length to the good, and his crew unexpectedly well together, considering their practice. They looked as if they could hold their own; past the Creek they still led, but at the commencement of the bund, Mr. J. J. Dare brought up his crew and a spirited race ensued between the two boats, now rowing stroke for stroke. Richmond had dropped down to thirty, and Dare had increased his up to the same number, and almost locked together, they struggled to the French hatoba, where three-quarters of a mile was done, and the race was over; Dare quickened slightly and drew away as he liked, and though the form of the others was maintained to the finish, they had no more to say. We cannot account in any way for the poor show made by Mr. A. Dare's crew; at the middle of the practice they were going unquestionably very strong; but very little attention seems to have been paid to "swing," and when they were asked to race, they fell to pieces, getting short and scratchy. In each of the first two crews, a griffin took the bow-oar, neither were *au fait* at the difficult task of pulling a bow-oar strong and effectively, but both showed considerable improvement on their early efforts, and we hope they will have the patience to persevere. We append names and weights of the competing crews.—

* Heaven forbid that we should be on board any one of them!

FOUR OAR OUTRIGGERS (Club).....1 mile.

- 1.—F. Walker10st. 2lbs.
 2.—A. Milson11st. 1lbs.
 3.—J. W. Playfair11st. 12lbs.
 J. J. Dare(stroke).....10st. 10lbs.
 A. H. C. Haselwood... (cox)9st. 9lbs.
 1.—G. C. Wood.....10st. 10lbs.
 2.—O. H. Jeyes.....10st. 4lbs.
 3.—H. C. Litchfield11st. 9lbs.
 T. G. Richmond(stroke).....10st. 8lbs.
 J. J. Enslie (cox)1 st. 5lbs.
 1.—C. P. Hall9st. 6lbs.
 2.—J. Lilburn10st. 10lbs.
 3.—H. Greey12st. 5lbs.
 A. H. Dare(stroke).....10st. 12lbs.
 H. B. Henley (cox)9st. 11bs.

Time, 7 minutes.

Mr. Playfair won the Canoe race (paddling) which followed.

Thursday was a perfect day for the performance of the Pair-oar cracks. We have just received the file of the 'Varsity' race, this year shorn of all its excitement, and put back into the category of the 'Sixties,' when the race was a foregone conclusion. We cannot, here in Yokohama bay, with our puny pair-oars, attempt to rival the grandeur of the Easter meeting, either in number of spectators, or in the excellence of our rowing, but we may safely say that we have rarely seen so fine a contest in our bay, as that afforded to us by the contest of the Pairs. Messrs. Litchfield 11st. 9lbs., Mr. C. P. Hall 9st. 6lbs., Mr. Henley coxswain 9st. 11lbs. the holders, contended against the best of the Challengers. Messrs. A. H. Dare 10st. 12 lbs., Mr. J. J. Dare 10st. 10 lbs and Mr. A. H. C. Haselwood 9st. 9 lbs. Both crews came to the post fairly fit; there was no doubt the Dares had the advantage of being in better practice, but in the paddle down, Messrs. Litchfield and Hall showed that they were well together. An even start was effected, the Dares having the best of it, if possible, but this they did not keep long; at the end of a hundred yards Mr. Litchfield showed ahead. Rowing and swinging well to a merry thirty-four per minute, he kept his position against the quicker stroke of the brothers past the P. M. wharf; here the pace of both crews was increased, each man bending his back with a will to the work; past the Grand Hotel alongside the Bund the race was maintained in all the freshness of the competitors, there was no spurring, but every effort was made by the one to increase the advantage he had gained, and by the other to lessen the gap. The boats were so far apart, a distance necessitated by some unfortunate obstructions in the course, that at times it was difficult to judge their relative positions, but both coxswains agree that Litchfield led to the French Hatoba, and from that point it is certain that Dare, by a vigorous and well sustained spurt, drew ahead to nearly two lengths, and notwithstanding a splendid effort made by Litchfield opposite No. 4, about one hundred yards from home, which brought him inch by inch up to his opponent, the Judge's verdict was secured for the former by a bare length. Each of the competing crews have now scored one victory towards the two which are necessary to entitle a crew to the retention of the Cup, and we may expect a renewal of this contest in the Autumn.

On the present occasion, the form of both crews was good, the rowing long and fairly clean; if there was anything to choose between the two, Mr. Litchfield was rowing the longer and slower stroke all the way until he made his last effort, when he worked up to thirty-eight. It seemed to us, as lookers-on, that he was rowing rather tenderly at the beginning of the race, and that in spite of the lead he obtained, he was chary of forcing the pace. Whether that was so or not, we cannot tell, but this we are willing to say, that a gamer struggle could hardly be rowed and that there was nothing to choose between the two at the finish, in point of 'pumpedness.'

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 6. Can any of your readers inform me whether there are any, and if so, what books on Japanese surgery, or midwifery, as practised before the coming of the Dutch and Portuguese? (Answered below.) Z.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he or some one else may possibly be good

enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can any one say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosei" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the *Han* paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, some other student may be able to do the same for it.

3.—Can any account be got of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c.

(Unanswered.)

X.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat; the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium temulentum* or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineae*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions.

(Unanswered.)

R. N.

Qy. 11. Many of your readers, when walking towards the new cemetery, must have remarked the *tumuli*, about twelve in number, which dot the table land which lies above Ota on the one side, and the hill of Tobo on the other. These *tumuli* are religiously preserved from the spoiling of the farmer, and must have some history; are they the burying-places of heroes fallen in some old quarrel? Can any of your readers enlighten me?

(Unanswered.)

T.

Qy. 12. In Jules Verne's work, entitled "Michael Strogoff, the Courier of the Czar," occurs a paragraph which touches upon the disposal of political exiles in Siberia. Speaking of their concentration at Irkutsk, during one of the Tartar invasions, he says "some are doctors, others professors, either at the Japanese school or at the School of Navigation." One does not of course, expect absolute accuracy in a novel, but is our ingenious author not a little adrift here! I shall however be glad to know if such an institution really exists.

(Unanswered.)

M.

NOTE TO QUERY 6.—No books on midwifery were written in Japan before the commencement of intercourse with the Dutch, nor did the Dutch introduce any obstetrical literature into the country. The Japanese must be considered as absolutely without any system of midwifery until about a hundred years ago, the attendance upon child-birth up to that time devolving upon women, whose knowledge, if knowledge it could be called, was derived from tradition and whose duties were limited to the simplest manipulations. A physician might be called in, in cases of emergency, but except in the production of lengthy prescriptions, his powers were merely on a level with those of the midwives. Japanese midwifery owes its being to a practitioner named Kagawa, a man of great experience and considerable intelligence but unfortunately led astray by the 'fen follet' of Chinese philosophy. He developed a perfectly original system, of remarkable complexity, but for the most part useless and sometimes even harmful, owing to its erroneous anatomical and physiological basis. It was handed down to posterity in 1775 by his assistant and adopted son. A very interesting abstract of Kagawa's practice will be found in a contribution by Dr. Miyake of Tōkiō in the transactions of the German Asiatic Society for 1876-7.

Surgery had no existence in Japan until the present century, unless the use of the moxa, acupuncture needles, various ointments, and other external applications could be accepted as representatives of the art. Until recently, amputations were effected by a sweep of a sword in the few cases in which the measure was considered justifiable, but in the battle-field, any difficulty arising from a serious injury was generally terminated by the decapitation of the sufferer, a merciful office discharged by a comrade.

Works on various internal diseases date back over 300 years, a good account of *Kak'ke* was published as early as 1566 by a physician named Osada Tokufu.

A.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

ERRORS IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun').

THE Governors or Vice-Governors of Provinces, who came lately to Tôkiô to attend the meeting of the *Chihokuwan Kunwaigi*, having now left the capital some days ago, we expect they have, by this time, mostly arrived in their respective provinces; and we presume that at no distant date they will proceed to give effect to the resolutions come to in that Assembly. We think also, that much advantage would accrue if they would, while conducting the affairs of their provinces, avail themselves of the experience they have gained from the discussions in the Assembly and generally during their stay in the Capital. In such event, we are sure that affairs in the Provinces would, on the return of the Governors, undergo a beneficial change. We take the opportunity of referring to a bad practice which has hitherto prevailed there, trusting to the Governors to remove it, in their administration of the new system.

The wish of provincial officials is of course to conduct the government of affairs in conformity with the wishes of, and in obedience to the orders of, central authority. But cases have occurred on which the provincial authorities, being at such a distance from the Central Government, have not thoroughly understood the real spirit of these wishes or instructions: they have mistaken the views of their superiors; and 'guessing'—so to speak, that the wish of the Government would be to bring matters to such a point, have ended by bringing them to one very unexpected. An old proverb says: 'What the high like, the low likes more,' and the inclination of the Central Government being exaggerated by the provincial authorities may occasionally not a little affect the public weal. For instance, when Government was trying to improve education, the provincial Governors devoted their utmost efforts to the end, and by their persuasion, splendid school-buildings have been erected in even the smallest villages. But to see the painted walls of these new schools standing opposite to ruined cottages, is pitiable. Indeed a certain amount of wealth seems necessary, in order to maintain schools, and at present, the people seem rather distressed than otherwise by possessing them. The object of the Government was to improve the education of the people; but the provincial authorities, in carrying out this design, appear to have fallen into the error,—consequent on the idea being transmitted to them through many minds—that if the school buildings were splendidly constructed, the wishes of the Government would be attained.

In this matter of education, however, though the designs of the Government may have been misunderstood, no great harm has been done; but in other affairs in the provinces, the wishes of Government may be harmfully misunderstood. Some time ago, when the Central Government communicated its wish to facilitate the circulation of money by the establishment of banks, the exertions of the Provincial Governors in this direction probably exceeded the proper limit, for the Financial Department had afterwards to modify their original plan. Again, in the case of the recent tragedy at Kioisaka, although we have been unable to find out exactly what were the Central Government's orders to the provinces;—what was notified by the Provincial Governors to the newspapers under their control seems to have been much more precise than the communications made to their contemporaries in the capital. This we noticed on receipt of the papers from the provinces. Certainly these errors do not arise from any ill disposition of the provincial governments, but from their wish to give decided effect, at once, to what they conceive to be the desires of the central power. Hence, concluding the objects of the latter to be good, they gradually extend them, until, unconsciously, they run into extremes. The Central Government issues orders to the Provincial Governors, who deliver them to their officers, who, again, transmit them to the Kucho or Kocho, who execute them, and during this process the scope of the orders gradually expand until, for instance, there may happen instances where 'to raise a loan of money' comes to be interpreted 'to demand a gift of money'—and 'persuasion' becomes exaggerated into 'pressure.' Thus the Central Government's orders, before reaching the people, are liable to undergo more or less alteration, and in the execution of their orders, though originally their nature may be good and they may be such as the people

would approve and cheerfully obey; if pushed beyond the proper degree they may, on the contrary, turn out to be cause for displeasure and grief. Consider:—when an order is issued, before it can take effect, through what course and what an amount of consideration, and through how many hands it has to go. Even if those who issued the orders communicated directly with those who executed them, even then, we think it possible that something would be misunderstood.

What we have written above relates to bad customs which sometimes prevailed in the provinces in old times, but which we now hope to see removed by the wisdom of the Provincial Governors. And though to blame those who, though exceeding the proper degree, or mistaking the proper course, still strive to act in strict accordance with governmental orders, would be too severe:—what we want to see removed is the practice occasionally prevalent, of conjecturing the wishes of Government and taking action to meet them before orders are actually issued. We fully believe, however, that the new law has now put an end to such a bad custom and that it is no longer discoverable anywhere.

EXTRACT.

SHARKS ON THE INDIAN COAST.

(From the "Madras Times")

Those who have read our local columns will have noticed that a Madras native boatman has fallen a victim to a shark, which seized him by the thigh whilst he was swimming in the water, and caused his death in a very short time afterwards. This points an obvious moral. Dark-skinned persons are by no means as "safe," as some suppose, from the attacks of sharks. Fishermen themselves have a cool disregard for sharks that is the more surprising, seeing that this is by no means the first instance of death from shark-bite amongst the numerous band of Madras boatmen, during the last ten years or so. In one year eight fishermen have been supposed to have been carried off by sharks in Madras roads alone. Here, in this recent loss of another Madras boatman, we have the latest and most incontrovertible instance, and it induces us to make a few remarks on the subject. This subject is worthy of study, and of experimentalization. A good deal is known and should be remembered; a good deal needs yet to be known, and that should be learnt by some harmless but interesting experiments.

In the first place, the immunity of the native in water from the shark, is taken everywhere too much for granted. It is true his dark complexion of body renders him less visible in the water than one with a white skin. A white body passing through the water is certainly more noticeable than a dark one, to fish as to man. It apparently gleams, even where the sea is not dark, but seething with silvery foam. A shark might mistake a dark man for a log of wood, but a white man—never! *He is too much like pork!* Habit is a second nature to sharks, in our own roadstead as everywhere else. They have got used to much that is thrown overboard from our shipping, and have a keen eye for anything white—as a broken piece of china, a pith helmet, shaving-paper, or, best of all, as we have said before, fat, white, nutritive (when there is no hook inside it) pork! White man is evidently mistaken for pork by poor innocent sharks. It is only shark-connoisseurs who have learnt, by experience, that a fat black man is an equal luxury; and it is unfortunately indubitable that shark-connoisseurs are increasing every day!

But why do sharks seize men in the water at all? It is known that the majority of sharks do not. Every day, in this our fishing season, swarms of sharks surround especially the great fishing-nets of our coast. They dash eagerly at the fish which escape, but do not touch the swimmers, most of them boys, who literally swarm round the fishing-nets at their outward head. Hundreds of these boys flop about, dive, leap, gambol, and play regular aquatic games round the nets, as they are being dragged in, weighty with fish, by scores of stalwart fishermen on shore. (Heavens! what stalwart, fine, robust, sinewy men our Madras fishermen are:—would they not be capital man-of-war's men in case of more complications with Russia?—This is a gentle passing hint.) In any case, one must come to the conclusion that Madras sharks are either afraid of, careless of, or ignorant of, the succulent nature of the healthy, well-fed, sleek Madras fisherman. It is either—we say it after some consideration—that the sharks cannot quite see and comprehend Natives in the water, or that the majority of them are not *educated*. We will explain exactly what we mean.

In 1866 a Madras officer was leaving this town for England by a well-known steamer. The story we now relate is thoroughly authenticated. A number of his brother officers were on board with him. A very large number of massoolah boats swarmed round the steamer. The boatmen, after their own manner, were shouting, yelling, and jabbering like fiends. An officer who had not yet boarded, stood at the stern of his massoolah-boat, with his legs dangling over the side of the craft. Suddenly all on board heard a terrific yell! They beheld the officer in the boat throw his legs into the air, and descend into the bottom of the massoolah

Just at the nick of time he had saved himself from being amputated of both legs,—and without any fees required for the surgical operation. He had just time to dash himself down backwards into the boat, when a great shark flashed up from the water, beneath his feet. It had darted upwards at his dangling feet, but in the turn, to get the mouth uppermost, had missed the mark, and caught the soles of the young officer on the tip of his nose, and thus fortunately capsize him. So rapid was the movement, however that as the officer fell with a shout into the bottom of his boat backwards, the shark was seen to leap three quarters of its length out of water! And all this was when nearly a hundred boats were alongside the steamer, and there was great noise, and boat-paddles were dashing all round the shark. Then, too, it must be noted that the young officer had dark trowsers on, and black boots. There was none of that "gleam of white" about him, which we have mentioned as being likely to attract sharks in the water. The story we tell is a true one. It can be authenticated. How then shall it be explained? The case is just one calculated to excite curious speculation.

The explanation is such a strange one, that it may take away the breath of some of our readers. We have little doubt that our surmise, however, will, in this and many similar instances, bear investigation. We know that on land there are tigers and tigers. We know that for the most part tigers are simply afraid of man, and slink away from him whenever seen. One tiger out of a thousand does not do so. In the Bay there are thousands of sharks afraid of man, in any shape, regarding him when in the water as a monstrously novel fish. But one in a thousand does not think thus,—from simple experience. That one tiger, that one shark, has somehow TASTED MAN. It is an Initiation, it is a Discovery, it is an Animal Perfection of Bliss! Taste begets appetite; Appetite begets craving. We appeal to Naturalists. We know too well of Man-eating Tigers. Will any one dare to affirm that there are no Man-eating sharks?

The question is one which cannot be dismissed with unseemly levity. Cannibals prefer human flesh to any other. Cannibals, by reason of their species, are the highest kind of reasoning animals,—or, rather, brutes. The highest kind of shark, and perhaps that is the Jamaica ground-shark, is a brute whose dim reasoning approaches, perhaps nearest of all, to the ratiocination of a cannibal. In the myriads of shark-nations in the Bay of Bengal, there are, perhaps, only a few confirmed cannibals. Most of these are probably *gourmets*; but there are few pukka *gourmets*. The former only touch gleaming white-flesh—the latter are not particular as to colour as long as it is flesh, and best of all flesh,—the Human.

Have our readers ever heard the following story of Kingston Harbour, Jamaica? An English soldier was sitting on the low parapet wall which skirts the harbour, fishing. His feet were within three feet of the water. He was intent on fishing. He thought he had a bite. So he had. A ground-shark had suddenly leapt up, and his legs were neatly amputated close to the knees. About that time several strange disappearances took place. Sharks were caught with various kinds of buttons inside them, with American dollars, hairpins, tracts, rings, and satin-slippers. One of the latter was recognized by Mr. Boldero, a retired Major, who had a large estate near Kingston. The toe of the slipper was embroidered in pale-blue silk "Nina." For two weeks Major Boldero had not seen his only and beautiful daughter, Nina. It was suspected that she had run off with Lieutenant Spinks of the South Carolina Rifles. But now the matter was cleared up! She had been swallowed by a shark! The Major was terribly cut up. Spinks would have been a million times better than the shark. He went into mourning. His estate was half neglected. What cared he for money now? But he would have revenge. For one whole year he fished for sharks in Kingston Harbour, and ripped open every one he caught, for traces of his lost Nina. At length he took to employing dynamite, and slew the monsters by the thousands. But his heart had no peace. His head grew grey. His eyes grew dim. Idens began to buzz in his head. He would invent a great wire net which would encircle every shark in Kingston Harbour and rid the coast of Jamaica of each one of the hideous monsters. Every morning before fishing or exploring he used to visit the marble monument he had erected to the memory of his beloved daughter, Nina. And so eight years passed away.

One morning, as the sun was just touching with gold the bosky peaks which arose to the eastward and northward of his estate, and Major Boldero was sitting on a garden beach overlooking the grand, broad harbour of Kingston spreading westward, a little boy and a Negro servant approached. The boy, with fair curly hair, large deep blue serious eyes, and cheeks as rosy as a West Indian sunrise, was evidently barely seven years old; but, quite unabashed, he stepped up to the old Major, doffed his little hat as politely as if he were seventy and not seven, and said:—"Sir, we have come to look at the scenery. Papa and Mamma said we may, didn't they Sambo? (The servant nodded.) Please let me stand on your beach and see the sea. I ain't tall gentleman yet you know, but papa says I will be, if I am a good boy."

The old Major eyed the youngster wistfully. There was something in the boy's frank bold look that made him sigh. He took the child up, stroked his hair, when the little fellow burst out:—"O, there is the sea, and the ships! I do so love ships! But I don't like the sea. There are plenty of sharks there!"

The old gentleman nearly dropped the boy from agitation, as he was holding him up. After a little while he said,—"Won't you have an orange?"

"No, Sir," replied the youngster. "Mamma told me not to touch anything, and I won't. They are coming soon, and if they'll let me, I will eat two oranges."

"What is your name my boy."

"Boldero."

"What!" The old man sprung up erect as an arrow, holding the amazed child before him. "Tell me your exact name!"

"Boldero Spinks, of course,—and here comes Papa and Mamma!" The old man's head sank on his breast. The next moment, the father was holding in his arms his long lost daughter. And the child stood wonderingly by, to see, what he never saw before, his mother sobbing for joy, and an old man also weeping!

This is neither the time nor place to give more than the barest outline of what might make a passable novelette; but leaving the rest to the reader's imagination, we would only give a scrap of a conversation between Colonel Spinks (he had gained his spurs in the Great Civil War) and Major Boldero. The shark episodes had been talked and laughed over, and how the slippers of Mrs. Spinks were lost overboard, &c., when Spinks said,

"Since, Sir, I saw you last, your daughter and I were at first sorely separated by the war. When it was over, we went a year's tour round the world, and on the Coromandel coast of India I learnt the very best way in the world how to kill sharks. There is a port in Southern India which I think they call Tuticorin, where there used to be a lot of pearl-divers. Well, these fellows used to dive down with stiff bamboos, carefully pointed, and tied firmly together cross-ways, each bamboo being about two feet long. When a shark came gliding up to a diver, he would simply stretch out his arm, firmly grasping this cross. As the shark playfully turned to take a good bite off him, he popped the wooden cross as far as it would go down the creature's mouth. Of course the shark immediately tried to snap his jaws together, but that was naturally of no use. So the astonished fish would go flopping and floundering about, wondering what in all the world was in its mouth, and would be found, a week after, starved to death, floating dead on its back in the water, with its mouth still wide open! In Madras, which I visited, I suggested that a number of these bamboo-crosses should be made, and have simply a piece of pork fastened in their centre, and thrown over-board. They would make a host of sharks open their mouths, and keep them open too as long as they could stand it! If tigers and snakes can be kept under, why shall not sharks? I don't know whether the Madras Chamber of Commerce adopted my suggestion."

"Well then," cried the Major, "we will ourselves try it here, in Kingston: and I vote that our first bait be—one of Nina's satin-slippers!"

HOW WE BEAT THE FAVOURITE.

A LAY OF THE LOAMSHIRE HUNT CUP.

"Aye, squire," said Stevens, "they back him at evens;

The race is all over, bar shouting, they say;
The Clown ought to beat her; Dick Neville is sweeter
Than ever—he swears he can win all the way.

"A gentleman rider—well, I'm an outsider,
But if he's a gent who the mischief's a jock?
You swells often blunder, Dick rides for the plunder,
He rides too like thunder—he sits like a rock.

"He calls 'hunted fairly' a horse that has barely
Been stripp'd for a trot within sight of the hounds,
A horse that at Warwick beat Birdlime and Yorick,
And gave Abdelkader at Aintree nine pounds.

"They say we have no test to warrant a protest;
Dick rides for a lord and stands in with a steward;
The light of their faces they show him—his case is
Prejudged and his verdict already secured.

"But none can outlast her, and few can go faster,
She runs in her work clean away from The Drag.
You hold her and sit her, she couldn't be fitter,
Whenever you hit her she'll spring like a stag.

"And p'rhaps the green jacket, at odds though they back it,
May fall, or there's no knowing what may turn up;
The mare is quite ready, sit still and ride steady,
Keep cool, and I think you may just win the Cup."

Dark-brown with tan muzzle, just stripped for the tussle,
Stood Iscult, arching her neck to the curb,
A lean head and fiery, strong quarters and wiry.
A loin rather light, but a shoulder superb.

Some parting injunction, bestow'd with great unction,
I tried to recall, but forgot like a dunce,
When Reginald Murray full tilt on White Surrey
Came down in a hurry to start us at once.

"Keep back in the yellow, come up on Othello,
Hold her on the chestnut, turn round on The Drag,
Keep back there on Spartan, back you, sir, in tartan,
So, steady there, easy," and down went the flag.

We started, and Kerr made strong running on Mcmaid,
Through furrows that led to the first stake-and-bound,
The crack half extended look'd blood-like and splendid,
Held wide on the right where the headland was sound,

I pulled hard to baffle her rush with the snaffle,
Before her two-thirds of the field got away,
All through the wet pasture where floods of the last year
Still loitered, they clotted my crimson with clay.

The fourth fence, a wattle, floor'd Monk and Bluebottle;
The Drag came to grief at a blackthorn and ditch,
The rails toppled over Roscommon and Rover,
The lane stopped Lycurgus and Leicestershire Witch.

She passed like an arrow Kildare and Cock Sparrow,
And Kestrel and Mermaid refused at the wall;
And Giles on The Greyling came down at the paling,

And I was left sailing in front of them all.
I took them a burster, nor eased her nor nursed her
Until the black bullfinch led into the plough,
And through the strong bramble we bored with a scramble—
My cap was knock'd off by the hazel-tree bough.

Where furrows looked lighter I drew the rein tighter.
Her dark chest all dappled with flakes of white foam,
Her flanks mud-bespattered, a weak rail she shattered—
We landed on turf with our heads turn'd for home.

Then crash'd a low binder, and then close behind her
The sward to the strokes of the favourite shook,
His rush roused her mettle, yet ever so little
She shorten'd her stride as we raced at the brook.

She rose when I hit her, I saw the steam glitter,
A wide scarlet nostril flashed close to my knee,
Between sky and water The Clown came and caught her,
The space that he cleared was a caution to see.

And forcing the pace still to make the mare race still,
A length to the front went the rider in green,
A long strip of stubble, and then the big double,
Two stiff flights of rails with a quickset between.

She tore at the raspor, I felt my knees grasp her,
I found my hands give to her strain on the bit,
She rose when The Clown did—our silks as we bounded
Brush'd lightly, our stirrups clash'd loud as we lit.

A rise steeply sloping, a fence with stone coping—
The last—we diverged round the base of the hill,
His path was the nearer, his leap was the clearer,
I flogg'd up the straight and he led sitting still.

She came to his quarter and on still I brought her,
And up to his girth to his breast-plate she drew,
A short pryer from Neville just reach'd me, 'The Devil !'
He mutter'd—lock'd level the hurdles we flew.

A hum of hoarse cheering, a dense crowd careering,
All sights seen obscurely, all shouts vaguely heard,
"The Green wins!" "The Crimson!" the multitude swims on,
And figures are blended and features are blurr'd.

"The horse is her master!" "The green forges past her!"
"The Clown will outlast her!" "The Clown wins!"
"The Clown!"

The white railing races with all the white faces,
The chesnut outpaces, outstretches the brown.

On still past the gateway she strains in the straight-way,
Still struggles, 'The Clown by a short neck at most,'
He swerves, Neville scourges, the stand rocks and surges,
And flashes, and verges, and flits the white post.

Aye, so ends the tussle, I know the tan muzzle
Was first, though the ring-men were yelling "Dead heat!"
A nose I could swear by, but Clarke said "The mare by
A short head." And that's how the favourite was beat.

THE HOUSE KEEPER.

MARKET PRICES OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME, &c., &c.

Bread	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Beef—Europe Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .18	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.19 to .30	"
Veal	"	"	...	.25	"
Pork	"	"	...	.12 to .16	"
Sausages	"	"	...	.30	"
Beef—Japsc. Butchers	...	...	...	.10 to .16	"
Mutton	"	"	...	.16 to .25	"
Veal	"	"	...	.20	"
Pork	"	"	...	.10	"
Sausages,	"	"	...	.20	"
Eggs	...	...	...	.10 to .15	per doz.
Fowls	...	...	...	.30 to .40	each.
Chickens	...	...	...	.15 to .25	"
Geese	...	...	...	.75 to 1.00	"
Pigeons	...	...	...	.08 to .10	"
Turkeys	...	...	...	2.00 to 3.50	"
Bombay Onions	...	...	...	.07 to .10	per lb.
Milk—Japanese	...	...	...	.10	per bottle.
Milk—European	...	...	...	.12½	per bottle.
English Coal	...	...	...	14.50 to 15.50	per ton.

Japanese Coal	...	...	...	8.50 to 10.00	"
Anthracite	...	...	...	15.00 to 17.00	"
Australian Coal	...	...	...	10.50 to 11.50	"

Vegetables for sale in Yokohama Market:—potatoes old and new, sweet potatoes cabbage, cauliflower, spinach, beet-root, radishes, lettuce, endive, watercress, pumpkin, horse radish, onions, celery cucumbers turnips, carrots, parsnips, spring onions and turnip-tops.

POSTAL NOTICES.

List of Unclaimed Letters, &c. remaining at the Imperial Japanese Post Office on the 1st day of June, 1878 :—

Anderson, John L.
Arrivet, Arthur
Auberot, E.
Buckmaster, G. W., 2.
Castelli, Chev.
Clark, James, 2.
Coignet, Mons.
Dauvergne, H., 7.
Feeney, Mr.
Forster, Carl
Green, Thos. R.
Hayes, B. F.
Imaijimi, M., Tokio
Kawamura, S.
Kinnoke San
Klasen, A. J., Tokio
Lagden, C. W.
Liebers, B.
Lohmann & Co.
Mansfield, Mr.
Mariani, M.
Marshall, John
Mathews, E. S.
Mavescalehi, Count
Mills, W. J.

Milsadameizi, Mons.
Molle, Dr.
Nakanawa, Tokio
Ochica, 2
Okee, S.
Olsen, O.
Ottolini, E.
Robertson, S.
Rough, David
Sarda, J.
Sanzea, David, 4
Tagai Saiske
Wolf, G. B.
Yassida, R.

SHIPS' LETTERS.

"Kongo"
Ship "Canada"
"C. B. Carver"
"Flying Spur"
Bark "Earl of Devon," 2
"Gitanilla"
Brig "Ausust."

L. T. FARR,
Acting Superintendent.

Imperial Japanese Post Office,
Yokohama, June 1st, 1878.

THE JAPAN TIMES,

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

Price Twenty-four Dollars Per Annum.

CONTENTS OF No. 24. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. JUNE 15TH, 1878

LEADING ARTICLES.

Prospects of the New Silk Crop. The Press Law and its Critics. A new Leaf of Science.

The Treaty and the Congress. Analysis of Prince Gortachoff's reply (*Vanity Fair*.)

Does the Conduct of Russia with reference to the Treaty of San Stefano Justify the Calling-out of the Reserves? (ditto.)

EDITORIAL NOTES.

PAPERS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY
On Cremation of The Dead in Japan, by Professor Dr. W. Doenitz.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.—NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.
Errors in Provincial Governments.

EXTRACTS.

Sharks on the Indian coast. How we beat the Favourite.

Mail steamer register.—Reports of Import and Export Trade for March April and May Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 23. JUNE 8, 1878.

Reform of the Press Laws. Commercial Education. The New Currency. Supplementary Forestry Regulations. Editorial Notes.
Lord Salisbury's Despatch on the Eastern Question and Prince Gortachoff's reply.
Correspondence. 'Nauticus' on the Mitsu Bishi Company. 2.
Notes of the Week.
The Japanese Press. The Position of Japanese Teas. Commercial Education. The Change in Currency of Coins.
Extracts. Mr. Brunton on Drainage.
Mail Steamer Register. Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. Advertisements.

RETURN OF THE IMPORT TRADE OF THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA,
FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, 1878.

IMPORTS.	QUANTITY.			VALUE.		
	1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.	1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.
COTTON MANUFACTURES.						
Chintz	pcs. 2,000	pcs. 100	pcs. 2,100	\$ 3,563	\$ 170	\$ 3,733
Drills	" 1,043	" 3,218	" 4,261	4,756	8,779	13,535
Flannel	" 296	" —	" 296	1,468	—	1,468
Satins	" 532	" 52	" 584	2,787	275	3,062
Shirtings, Grey	" 102,286	" 45,758	" 148,044	193,947	90,372	284,319
" White	" 7,911	" 1,863	" 9,774	14,405	8,534	22,939
" Dyed	" 8,104	" 13,863	" 21,967	13,557	28,952	42,509
" Twilled	" 11,436	" 4,583	" 16,019	35,122	13,760	48,881
Singlets and Drawers	" —	" —	" —	3,915	2,855	6,770
T.-Cloth	" 11,490	" 7,167	" 18,657	16,436	11,806	28,242
Turkey Red	" 26,623	" 13,311	" 39,934	45,535	21,754	67,289
Velvets	" 16,478	" 9,664	" 26,142	106,784	61,425	168,209
Yarn	pcds. 62,467	pcds. 27,084	pcds. 89,551	1,689,943	736,132	\$ 2,426,075
Other Cotton Fabrics	" —	" —	" —	29,880	19,395	49,244
				\$2,162,067	\$1,004,218	\$ 3,166,285
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.						
Blankets	pcds. 808.07	pcds. 585.66	pcds. 1,393.73	\$ 31,319	\$ 26,368	\$ 57,687
Camlets	pcs. —	pcs. 430	pcs. 430	—	4,050	4,050
Cloth	" 2,938	" 2,362	" 5,300	110,911	75,199	186,110
Flannel	" 500	" 61	" 561	7,101	1,124	8,225
Merinos	" 5	" —	" 5	193	—	193
Mousselines	" 80,574	" 34,933	" 115,507	390,080	163,715	553,795
Other Wool Fabrics	" —	" —	" —	1,347	8,456	9,803
				\$ 540,951	\$ 278,912	\$ 819,863
WOOL & COTTON MANUFACTURES.						
Alpaca	pcs. 11	pcs. 8	pcs. 19	\$ 165	\$ 130	\$ 295
Bunting	" 285	" 255	" 540	1,375	1,227	2,602
Italian Cloth	" 9,254	" 3,972	" 13,226	41,197	16,078	57,275
Lustres and Orleans	" 2,533	" 2,143	" 4,676	10,777	14,154	24,931
Other Mixed Fabrics	" —	" —	" —	27,184	4,251	31,435
				80,698	\$ 35,840	\$ 116,538
METALS.						
Brass	pcds. 56.97	pcds. 41.85	pcds. 98.82	\$ 2,059	\$ 892	\$ 2,951
Copper	" 807.71	" 7.77	" 815.48	17,892	178	18,070
Iron	" 34,802.79	" 24,311.60	" 59,114.39	110,225	57,832	168,057
Lead	" 11,206.29	" 602.04	" 11,808.33	65,056	3,275	68,331
" Tea	" 603.26	" 666.78	" 1,270.01	5,522	6,055	11,577
Quicksilver	" 163.76	" 111.86	" 275.62	12,639	6,543	19,182
Spelter and Zinc	" 1,130.68	" 1,131.52	" 2,262.20	8,827	8,753	17,580
Steel	" 2,331.56	" 847.43	" 3,208.99	15,234	6,288	21,522
Tin	" 713.37	" 289.75	" 1,003.12	7,813	1,799	9,603
Yellow Metal	" 751.91	" —	" 751.91	14,062	—	14,062
				\$ 259,329	\$ 91,606	\$ 350,935
SUGAR.						
Foreign	—	—	—	\$ 4,645	\$ 5,128	9,773
Chinese	pcds. 98,382	pcds. 57,809	pcds. 156,191	547,584	346,921	894,505
				\$ 552,229	\$ 352,049	\$ 904,278
Kerosene Oil	gals. 913,240	gals. 400	gals. 913,640	\$ 167,405	\$ 74	\$ 167,479
Coal and Coke	tons 5,238	tons 3,003	tons 8,241	\$ 17,340	\$ 12,336	\$ 29,676
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS.						
Arms and Ammunition				\$ 102,918	\$ 105	\$ 103,023
Acids, Chemicals, and Drugs				72,580	54,936	127,516
Beer and Porter				17,489	9,818	27,307
Bleaching Powder &c.				—	5,906	5,906
Boots and Shoes				1,724	275	1,999
Books				1,707	1,290	2,997
Buttons				4,806	3,568	8,434
Camphor				3,600	1,461	5,061
Canvas				19,544	3,743	23,287
Cattle				1,686	1,942	3,628
Cement				4,471	704	5,175
Clocks				17,112	5,909	23,051
Clothing				29,009	19,458	48,557
Cotton, Raw				20,591	4,700	25,291
Dyes				45,980	23,034	69,023
Flour				7,293	2,434	9,727
Glass, Window				11,402	13,286	24,688
" Ware				7,924	6,985	14,909
			Values carried up	\$ 370,025	\$ 159,544	\$ 529,569

IMPORTS.—Continued.

IMPORTS.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.		
		1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.
	Values brought up	\$ 370,025	\$ 159,544	\$ 529,569
Gunny Bags		776	—	776
Instruments, S'tific & Musical ...		20,942	6,718	27,660
Leather... ..		46,058	41,452	87,510
Linen		11,521	5,421	16,942
Machinery		13,085	14,521	28,206
Matches		1,250	1,663	2,913
Oil, (other than Kerosene)... ..		9,367	5,384	14,751
Peas and Beans		410	146	556
Perfumery		1,536	2,464	4,000
Plate and Nickel		6,915	6,074	12,989
Provisions and Stores... ..		19,814	18,803	38,617
Rope and Cordage		8,211	6,553	14,764
Silk and Satin		36,138	14,909	51,137
Silk and Cotton		2,788	5,704	8,492
Soap		8,702	9,142	17,844
Stationery and Paper		54,546	35,801	90,347
Umbrellas, Handles, & Frames... ..		80,177	34,613	114,790
Watches... ..		63,969	32,700	96,729
Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs		26,324	19,190	45,514
Miscellaneous, Foreign		193,732	77,608	271,340
„ Local		81,749	31,866	113,615
SUMMARY OF VALUE.		\$1,058,655	\$ 530,426	\$ 1,589,061
Cotton Manufactures		\$2,162,067	\$1,004,218	\$ 3,166,285
Woollen Manufactures		540,951	278,912	819,863
Mixed Cotton and Woollen		80,698	35,840	116,538
Metals		259,329	91,606	350,935
Sugar		552,220	352,049	904,278
Kerosene		167,405	74	167,479
Coal and Coko		17,340	12,336	29,676
Miscellaneous		1,058,635	530,426	1,589,061
DIVISION OF THE IMPORT TRADE FOR 3 MONTHS ENDING 31 MAY, 1878.		\$4,838,654	\$2,305,461	\$ 7,144,115
From Europe		\$3,646,926	\$1,723,288	\$ 5,370,214
„ United States		342,334	66,825	409,159
„ China, the Straits, the Philippines, Netherlands'				
India, Bombay, Calcutta and Australia		849,394	515,348	\$ 1,364,742
		\$4,838,654	\$2,305,461	\$7,144,115

RETURN OF THE EXPORT TRADE OF THE PORT OF YOKO HAMA.

FOR THE MONTHS AND OF MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY, 1878.

EXPORTS.	QUANTITY.			VALUE.		
	1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.	1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.
Awabi Fish	pcls. 685.38	pcls. 130.03	pcls. 815.41	\$ 21,300	\$ 3,560	\$ 24,860
„ Shells... ..	„ 481.37	„ 116.39	„ 597.76	1,154	326	1,480
Bronze	„ 1,954.62	„ —	„ 1,954.62	25,770	—	25,770
China Root	„ 1,167.90	„ 67.00	„ 1,234.90	2,279	130	2,409
Coal... ..	tons 450	tons —	tons 450	4,500	—	4,500
Cocoons, Pierced	pcls. 412.25	pcls. —	pcls. 412.25	27,250	—	27,250
„ Waste	„ 20.50	„ —	„ 20.50	390	—	390
Copper	„ 2,578.79	„ 72.00	„ 2,650.79	40,859	1,401	42,260
Curios	„ —	„ —	„ —	96,357	37,680	134,037
Cuttle Fish	pes. 1,385.62	„ 29.80	„ 1,415.42	16,110	360	16,470
Fans	pcls. 562,290	pes. 90,062	pes. 652,352	10,621	3,426	14,047
Fish, Dried	„ 9,358.85	pcls. 1,559.03	pcls. 10,917.88	31,495	5,803	37,298
Flour	„ —	„ 1,106.60	„ 1,106.60	—	2,598	2,598
Ginseng	„ 372.09	„ 38.87	„ 410.96	22,102	2,497	24,599
Isinglass	„ 322.12	„ 54.10	„ 376.22	9,479	1,880	11,359
Mushrooms	„ 633.04	„ 131.14	„ 764.18	19,836	3,484	23,320
Porcelain & Earthenware	„ —	„ —	„ —	7,767	2,016	9,783
Rice... ..	„ 68,872.50	„ 23,200.00	„ 94,072.50	155,253	56,515	211,768
Seaweed Cut... ..	„ 1,779.65	„ 133.96	„ 1,913.61	4,513	360	4,873
„ Uncut	„ 1,440.70	„ 41.00	„ 1,481.70	3,591	180	3,771
Silk, Raw ... Bales 1,973	„ 1,133.98	„ 522.18	„ 1,656.16	578,804	268,203	847,007
„ Noshi ... „ 233	„ 600.92	„ 29.00	„ 629.92	58,960	2,780	61,740
„ Floss ... „ 46	„ 91.50	„ 3.00	„ 94.50	14,965	600	15,565
„ Waste ... „ 412	„ 881.67	„ 182.60	„ 1,064.27	27,711	3,170	30,881
Silk Piece Goods	pes. 51	pes. 41	pes. 92	1,182	825	2,007
Tea	lbs. 391,457	lbs. 1,396,328	lbs. 1,787,785	64,592	324,804	389,396
„ Bancha	„ 84,143	„ 13,733	„ 97,876	729	257	986
„ Dust	„ 98,924	„ 54,853	„ 153,777	728	2,332	3,060
Tobacco	pcls. 608.85	pcls. 439.37	pcls. 1,048.22	6,430	6,728	13,158
Wheat	„ 61,473.70	„ 10,030.00	„ 71,503.70	111,308	18,610	129,918
Miscellaneous	„ —	„ —	„ —	17,314	3,658	20,972
				\$1,383,330	\$ 754,213	\$2,137,543

DIVISION OF THE EXPORT TRADE OF MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, 1878.

	VALUE.		
	1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.
To Europe	\$ 656,460	\$ 260,049	\$ 916,509
„ United States	233,196	381,219	614,415
„ India	21,383	515	21,898
„ Australia	890	225	1,115
„ China &c.	471,510	112,205	583,715
	\$ 1,388,439	\$ 754,213	\$ 2,137,652

RETURN OF SPECIE AND BULLION IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA

FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, 1878.

	1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.
IMPORTED.			
Dollars.	\$ 80,000	\$ 192,000	272,000
Silver Yen	yen 1,000	24,050	25,050
EXPORTED.			
Dollars	101,700	—	101,700
Gold Yen	579,050	20,540	599,590
Silver Yen	315,705	—	315,705
Nibookin... ..	204,615	61,000	265,615
Silver Boos	39,113	14,700	53,813
Copper Coin	6,000	—	6,000
Other Coin	8,460	—	8,460
Bar Silver	48,290	—	48,290
	1,302,983	\$ 96,240	1,399,173
VALUE.			
Mexican Dollars	158,450	—	158,450
Japanese Yen	1,144,483	96,240	1,240,723

RETURN OF THE RE-EXPORTS FROM THE PORT OF YOKOHAMA,

FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, 1878.

	1ST MARCH TO 30TH APRIL.	1ST TO 31ST MAY.	TOTAL.
Arms and Ammunition	\$ 11,050	\$ 150	\$ 11,200
Books	50	—	50
Cloth	—	1,117	1,117
Coal	2,400	7,400	9,800
Drugs	—	450	450
Dyes	611	—	611
Gunny Bags	1,500	—	1,500
Iron	150	—	150
Machinery	1,090	—	1,090
Musical Instruments	—	75	75
Paper	410	—	410
Shirtings, White	—	56	56
Miscellaneous	7,620	1,934	9,554
	\$ 24,791	\$ 11,182	\$ 35,973

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS. TIME AND FARE TABLES.

MILES.	STATIONS.	DOWN TRAINS.												FARES.		
		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	1st Cls. yen sen	2nd Cls. yen sen	3rd Cls. yen sen
—	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	7. 0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12. 0	1.15	2.30	3.45	5. 0	6.15	7.30	10. 5	—	—	—
3½	Shinagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
6	Omori.....	7.19	8.34	9.49	11. 4	12.19	1.34	2.49	4. 4	5.19	6.34	7.49	10.24	— 40	— 20	— 10
10½	Kawasaki.....	7.34	8.49	10. 4	11.19	12.34	1.49	3. 4	4.19	5.34	6.49	8. 4	10.39	— 55	— 30	— 15
12½	Tsurumi.....	7.42	8.57	10.12	11.27	12.42	1.57	3.12	4.27	5.42	6.57	8.12	10.47	— 70	— 40	— 20
16½	Kanagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Yokohama.....	8. 0	9.15	10.30	11.45	1. 0	2.15	3.30	4.45	6. 0	7.15	8.30	11. 5	1 00	— 60	— 30

UP TRAINS.

		A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	yen sen	yen sen	e sen
—	Yokohama.....	7. 1	8.19	9.34	10.49	12. 4	1.19	2.34	3.49	5. 4	6.19	7.34	10. 9	—	—	—
1½	Kanagawa.....	7.10	8.25	9.40	10.55	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.55	5.10	6.25	7.40	10.15	— 25	— 10	— 5
5½	Tsurumi.....	7.22	8.37	9.52	11. 7	12.22	1.37	2.52	4. 7	5.22	6.37	7.52	10.27	— 40	— 20	— 10
7½	Kawasaki.....	7.32	8.47	10. 2	11.17	12.32	1.47	3. 2	4.17	5.32	6.47	8. 2	10.37	— 55	— 30	— 15
12	Omori.....	7.46	9. 1	10.16	11.31	12.46	2. 1	3.16	4.31	5.46	7. 1	8.16	10.51	— 70	— 40	— 20
14½	Shinagawa.....	7.55	9.10	10.25	11.40	12.55	2.10	3.25	4.40	5.55	7.10	8.25	11. 0	— 85	— 50	— 25
18	Shinbashi (Tokio)...	8. 4	9.19	10.34	11.49	1. 4	2.19	3.34	4.49	6. 4	7.19	8.34	11. 9	1 00	— 60	— 30

STATEMENT OF PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

	Passengers &c.	Goods &c.	Total.
TOKIO—YOKOHAMA SECTION. (Miles open 18) for week ended June 3rd 1878.....	\$ 6,832.17	\$ 976.01	\$ 7,808.18
for corresponding period last year.....	6,552.31	826.66	7,378.97
Increase			\$ 429.21
KIOTO—KOBE SECTION. (Miles open 47½) for week ended June 3rd 1878.....	\$ 8,502.955	\$ 1,214.376	\$ 9,717.331
for corresponding period last year			\$ 8,987.486
Increase.....			\$ 779.895

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, June 14th, 1878.

IMPORTS:—So little business has been done during the week, that no real change is observable in imported goods. The stocks are increasing steadily, and there is no prospect of an improvement at the moment. YARNS are nominally better, but the quotations are seller's figures, not those of buyers, and any operations on a large scale could only be concluded by a material concession on the part of the former. A few pieces of SHIRTINGS have changed hands at low prices, and about 11,000 pieces 7lb. T-CLOTH, TURKEY REDS, and VICTORIA LAWNS have been sold at quotations. The complete business recorded is so small as to require no further notice.

No further deliveries of "Contract" Yarns are recorded, while arrivals have reached 1,637 bales as against sales 527 bales.

EXPORTS:—TEA. Business during the closing week has been to great extent influenced no doubt by a report which was current in some places that a reimposition of Tea Duty was contemplated in the United States. Prices hardened from \$1 @ 2 per picul for two or three days, in consequence of the great increase in settlements, which amount to Pels. 8,750 for the past seven days, but the rumour apparently having no good grounds, the market has quieted down and now shews no alteration on last week's quotations.

The S. S. *Glenorchy* has been laid on for New York *via* China Ports and Suez Canal, and has despatch promised by the close of this month; rate of freight reported at £3.10 per 40 feet.

EXCHANGE:—With nothing doing in Silk or Imports, this market has naturally been extremely quiet during the week. A little at ½d and a little, 60 ds, at ¼d, comprehend all the transactions in Bank paper: while operations in Private Bills have been confined to a fair amount of credits at 4s. 0d. against tea. Nothing beyond a very trifling business, chiefly for Chinese remitters, has been transacted on Hongkong or Shanghai.

ON LONDON, Bank 6 m. s.	3s. 11½d	ON PARIS, Bank 6 m. s.	4.97½	ON SHANGHAI, Bank sight.....	72½
" " sight.....	3s. 10½d	" " sight.....	4.90	" Private 10ds....	73½
" Credits 6 m. s.	4s. 0d	" Doc'ts 6 m. s.	5.05	ON HONGKONG, Bank sight....	1¼% dis.
" Doc'ts " "	4s. 0½d	ON SAN FRANCISCO, Bank sight.....	15½	" Private 10ds....	1¼% "
" " continental. 4s. 0½d		ON NEW YORK, " " ".....	95½		

BULLION & CURRENCY Gold Yen 320½, Kinsatsu 426.

MAIL STEAMERS' REGISTER.

DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS OF MAIL STEAMERS.

TABLE I.—Mitsu Bishi M. S. S. Company.

YOKOHAMA to COAST PORTS and SHANGHAI.
(January to June, 1878.)

LEAVES YOKOHAMA.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN SHANGHAI.
Jan. 2	Jan. 4	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 10
" 9	" 11	" 13	" 14	" 17
" 16	" 18	" 20	" 21	" 24
" 23	" 25	" 27	" 28	" 31
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
March 2	March 4	March 6	March 7	March 9
" 6	" 8	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 17	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 24	" 25	" 28
" 27	" 29	" 31	April 1	April 4
April 10	April 12	April 14	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 21	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 28	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 5	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 12	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 19	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 26	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 2	June 3	June 6
June 12	June 14	" 16	" 17	" 20
" 19	" 21	" 23	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 30	July 1	July 4

SHANGHAI, via COAST PORTS to YOKOHAMA.

LEAVES SHANGHAI.	DUE IN NAGASAKI.	DUE IN S' MONOSEKI.	DUE IN KOBE.	DUE IN YOKOHAMA.
Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 17
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 4	Feb. 7
Feb. 7	" 9	" 10	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 18	" 20	" 21	" 23	" 26
" 27	March 1	March 2	March 4	March 7
March 6	" 8	" 9	" 11	" 14
" 13	" 15	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 20	" 22	" 23	" 25	" 28
" 26	" 28	" 29	" 31	April 3
April 8	April 10	April 11	" 13	" 16
" 10	" 12	" 13	" 15	" 18
" 17	" 19	" 20	" 22	" 25
" 24	" 26	" 27	" 29	May 2
May 1	May 3	May 4	May 6	" 9
" 8	" 10	" 11	" 13	" 16
" 15	" 17	" 18	" 20	" 23
" 22	" 24	" 25	" 27	" 30
" 29	" 31	June 1	June 3	June 6
June 12	June 14	" 16	" 18	" 21
" 19	" 21	" 22	" 24	" 27
" 26	" 28	" 29	July 1	July 4

TABLE II.—Peninsular & Oriental Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via BRINDISI
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 25	Jan. 18	Mar. 1	Mar. 9
" 22	" 29	Mar. 11	Feb. 1	" 15	" 23
Feb. 5	Feb. 12	" 25	" 15	" 29	Apr. 6
" 19	" 26	Apr. 8	Mar. 1	Apr. 9	" 16
Mar. 5	Mar. 12	" 22	" 15	" 23	" 30
" 19	" 26	May 6	" 29	May 7	May 14
Apr. 2	Apr. 9	" 20	Apr. 12	" 21	" 28
" 10	" 18	June 3	" 26	June 4	June 11
" 24	May 2	" 17	May 10	" 18	" 25
May 8	" 16	July 1	" 24	July 30	July 9
" 22	" 30	" 15	June 7	" 13	" 23
June 5	June 13	" 29	" 21	" 27	Aug. 6
" 19	" 27	Aug. 12	July 5	Aug. 10	" 30
July 3	July 11	" 26	" 19	" 24	Sept. 3
" 17	" 25	Sept. 9	Aug. 2	Sept. 2	" 17
" 31	Aug. 8	" 23	" 16	" 16	Oct. 1
Aug. 14	" 22	Oct. 7	" 30	Oct. 8	" 15
" 28	Sept. 5	" 21	Sept. 13	" 22	" 29
Sept. 11	" 19	Nov. 4	" 27	Nov. 8	Nov. 16
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	" 18	Oct. 11	" 22	" 30
" 15	" 22	Dec. 2	" 25	Dec. 6	Dec. 14
" 29	Nov. 5	" 16	Nov. 8	" 20	" 28
Nov. 12	" 19	" 30	" 22	'79 Jan. 3	'79 Jan. 11
" 26	Dec. 3	'79 Jan. 13	Dec. 6	" 17	" 25
Dec. 10	" 17	" 27	" 20	" 31	Feb. 8
" 24	" 31	Feb. 10	'79 Jan. 3	Feb. 14	" 22

TABLE III.—Messageries Maritimes Company.

YOKOHAMA to and from HONGKONG and LONDON via MARSEILLES
(January to December, 1878.)

LEAVES Y'HAMA.	DUE IN H'KONG.	DUE IN LONDON.	LEAVES LONDON.	LEAVES H'KONG.	DUE IN Y'HAMA.
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Mar. 4	'77 Dec. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 16
" 29	Feb. 5	" 18	Jan. 11	" 23	Mar. 3
Feb. 12	" 19	Apr. 1	" 25	Mar. 9	" 17
" 26	Mar. 5	" 15	Feb. 8	" 23	" 31
Mar. 12	" 19	" 29	" 22	Apr. 6	Apr. 14
" 26	Apr. 2	May 13	Mar. 8	" 17	" 24
Apr. 9	" 16	" 27	" 22	May 1	May 8
" 17	" 25	June 10	Apr. 5	" 15	" 23
May 1	May 9	" 24	" 19	" 29	June 6
" 15	" 23	July 8	May 8	June 12	" 19
" 29	June 6	" 22	" 17	" 26	July 3
June 12	" 20	Aug. 5	" 31	July 10	" 17
" 26	July 4	" 19	June 14	" 24	" 31
July 10	" 18	Sept. 2	" 28	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
" 24	Aug. 1	" 16	July 12	" 21	" 28
Aug. 7	" 15	" 30	" 26	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
" 21	" 29	Oct. 14	Aug. 9	" 18	" 25
Sept. 4	Sept. 12	" 28	" 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 9
" 18	" 26	Nov. 11	Sept. 6	" 19	" 27
Oct. 8	Oct. 15	" 25	" 20	Nov. 2	Nov. 10
" 22	" 29	Dec. 9	Oct. 4	" 16	" 24
Nov. 5	Nov. 12	" 23	" 18	" 30	Dec. 8
" 19	" 26	'79 Jan. 6	Nov. 1	Dec. 1	" 22
Dec. 3	Dec. 10	" 20	" 15	" 28	'79 Jan. 5
" 17	" 24	Feb. 4	" 29	'79 Jan. 11	" 19
" 31	'79 Jan. 7	" 18	Dec. 13	" 25	Feb. 2

*. The dates of Arrival and Departure of the Mitsu Bishi Company's steamers are susceptible of alteration, consequent on the necessity imposed upon the Company—by its contract—of connecting with the steamers of the Pacific Mail.

*. No days for Arrival or Departure of the Pacific Mail Company's or Occidental and Oriental Company's steamers having as yet been fixed, we are unable to tabulate them. Each separate steamer's departure from her port will be notified in the Table below, and the day of her probable arrival at her destination.

*. Three days are allowed in the P. & O. Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Brindisi.

*. Two days are allowed in the Messageries Company's Schedule for transit of the Mails between London and Marseilles.

TABLE IV.—REGISTER OF ACTUAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MAIL STEAMERS;

COMPARED WITH SCHEDULE TIME.

MAIL (Inwards.)	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.	MAIL (Outwards.)	PORT OF DESTINATION.	DATE OF LEAVING PORT.	DUE HERE BY SCHEDULE	ARRIVED HERE.
M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	June 12	June 20		M. B. M. Co.'s -	Shanghai	June 19	June 27	
P. & O. Co.'s -	London	May 10	June 25		P. & O. Co.'s -	London	June 19	Aug. 12	
M. M. Co.'s -	London	May 3	June 19		M. M. Co.'s -	London	June 26	Aug. 19	
P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	June 4	June 26		P. M. Co.'s -	San Francisco	June 19	July 9	
O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco				O. & O. Co.'s -	San Francisco	June 14	Aug. 4	

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
June 9	Gaelic	Kidley	Brit. str.	2,756	San Francisco	May 18	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 9	Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Jap. str.	700	Kobe	June 7	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 10	Mary Goodell	Eames	Am. barq.	761	New York	Dec. 20	Kerosine	Lane, Crawford & Co.
" 11	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	June 4	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 11	Foo-so Kan	Hallowes	Jap. M.-of-W.	3,718	Portsmouth			
" 12	Sooloo	Allen	Am. ship	961	New York	Dec. 12	Kerosine	C. & J. Trading Co.
" 12	Glenorchy	Hogg	Brit. str.	1,775	London		General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 13	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	2,119	Shanghai & ports	June 5	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 13	Modeste	Mead	H.B.M.'s ship	1,913	Cruise			
" 13	Frolic	Dupuis	Brit. G. boat	592	Cruise			

PASSENGERS:—Per British steamer, *Gaelic*, from San Francisco:—Madame Lydia Patchkoff and Mons. Dousdebès; and 2 Europeans in steerage.

For Hongkong:—Miss Lilla Woodlief; and 138 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer, *Tsuruga Maru*, from Hiogo:—Mr. Douglas.

Per H. I. J. M. Ironclad, *Fu-so Kan*, from Portsmouth:—Messrs. Elbert and Parr, gunnery instructors, &c., and 6 Japanese gentlemen.

Per British steamer, *Malacca*, from Hongkong:—Messrs. C. E. Byron, H. Shingo, Kuroyama, Mrs. Walters; and 15 Chinese on Deck.

Per British steamer, *Glenorchy*, from Shanghai:—Mr. L. A. Encarnacao.

Per Japanese steamer, *Tokio Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Von Cottonbuick, Revd. Arthur Tooth, Dr. Hue, Miss Fuzie, Messrs. Milne, Yamamoto, Kommuhi, Matsumoto, Miura, Inouye, Makai, Yamanaka, Rossowa, Tamimoto, Sakuii, Sawawala, Yamado, Shibusawa, and Koba in cabin; and 247 Japanese, 7 Chinese, and 1 European in steerage.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS:—S.S. "Mikado," April 22.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; S. S. "Glenroy," Dec. 26; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17; "Bon Accord," Mar. 21.

FROM NEW YORK:—"Rainbow," Dec. 2; Dec. 31; "William Hales," Jan. 24; "City of Boston," Mar. 8; "G. H. Ingersoll," Mar. 15; "Hattie E. Taploy," Mar. 19; "Francisca," April 7; "Pym," March 20.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

FROM ANJEE:—"Fair Leader," Apr. 3;

FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.

FROM HONGKONG:—"Tibro," June 10; "City of Peking," June 10.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"China," June 4.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—"Berwickshire," S. S. "Sumatra," "John Milton." At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str., June 25th; Hongkong M. M. str., June 19th; San Francisco, P. M. str., June 26th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str., June 20th.

CARGO:—Per British steamer, *Gaelic*, from San Francisco:—Treasure, Yokohama, \$1,400.00; Treasure, Shanghai, \$1,043,802.75; Treasure, Hongkong, \$924,309.50.

Per British steamer, *Malacca*, from Hongkong:—Merchandise, 10,304 packages.

Per Jap str. *Tokio Maru* from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$425,733.00.

REPORTS:—The British steamer *Gaelic* reports:—Left San Francisco at noon on the 18th. Had foggy weather and moderate variable winds over; arriving at Yokohama on the 9th, at 11 a.m. Passage 21 days.

The American ship *Sooloo* reports:—Left New York Dec. 14th, 1877. Experienced heavy weather on leaving Coast of America. Crossed Equator in Atlantic 30 degrees W. 29 days out. Passed Mori Cape 65 days out. Ran Easting down in parallel of 45 Lat., moderate weather. Rounded Tasmania 101 days out. Crossed Equator in Pacific 163 degrees E. Experienced strong Westerly currents up through the Pacific, light wind and calms. On the Coast of Japan strong E. N. E. winds and rainy weather.

The British steamer *Glenorchy* reports:—Left Shanghai Friday afternoon. Passed a Norwegian barque that showed H. W. M. P., and asked to be reported. Fine weather throughout passage.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
June 8	Kestrel	Theobald	H. B. M. Ship	462	Cruise			
" 10	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Hakodate	June 14	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 10	Ægean	Stewart	Brit. str.	826	Kobe	" 12	General	Findlay, Richardson & Co.
" 10	Glenlyon	Wallace	Brit. str.	1,373	New York		General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 11	Glasgow Castle	Greig	Brit. str.	1,583	New York		General	Adamson, Bell & Co.
" 11	Kumamoto Maru	Drummond	Jap. str.	1,200	Hakodate	" 15	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 11	Tanais	De la Marcelle	Frch. str.	1,735	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 12	Gaelic	Kidley	Brit. str.	2,756	Hongkong	" 19	Mails and general	O. & O. Co.
" 12	Manhegan	Luce	Am. barq.	1,173	Nagasaki		General	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 12	Frolic	Dupuis	Brit. G.-boat	592	Cruise			
" 12	Modeste	Mead	H. B. M. Ship	1,913	Cruise			
" 12	Belle Morse	Hutchins	Am. ship	1,307	Puget Sound		General	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 12	Saikio Maru	Vroom	Jap. str.	1,147	Shanghai & ports	" 20	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 14	Winlow	Barker	Brit. barq.	540	Nagasaki		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 14	Vaschnick	Novosilsky	Russ. G.-boat	1,060	Cruise		Ballast	Japanese.
" 14	Kinshiu Maru	Hay	Jap. str.	1,216	Hakodate	" 18	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Messrs. F. Machefer, Daasonville, Nakamura Hiroyasu, and Miura Sukeitohi.

Per Brit. str. *Gaelic* for Hongkong:—Two on deck.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. Yamagata, Minister of War, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Macy, Mr. and Mrs. Green and 5 children, Mr. and Mrs. Taidzuma and child, Mr. and Mrs. Ono and child, Mr. and Mrs. Matsuno, Lieut. Col. Inouye, Lieut. Col. Kawasaki, Mr. Morioka, Governor of Hiogo, Bishop Williams, Messrs. Bavier, Watanabe, Shimidzu, J. F. Sutton, Gilbert, Otani, Shimidzu, Seiki, Kawasaki, Nakashima, Iwara, Geslien, John Heire, Ichikawa, Alex. Center, Yasuoka and child, and Yendo.

LOADING:—*Malacca*, for Hongkong and Europe, June 18th.—P. & O. Co.

Tokio Maru, for Shanghai and ports, June 19th.—M. B. M. Co.

Glenorchy, for New York, Quick despatch.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

City of Peking, for San Francisco, June 19th.—P. M. Co.

Emma C. Beal, for San Francisco, June 25th.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Obed Baxter, for New York, Quick despatch.—C. & J. Trading Co.

Shinagawa Maru, for Hakodate, June 16th.—M. B. M. Co.

Rurik, for Callao, July 1st.—Moulron.

MAILS LEAVING:—For Hongkong, P. & O. str., June 19th: for Hongkong, M. M. str., June 26th; for America, P. M. str., June 19th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str., June 19th; for Hakodate, M. B. M. str. June 16th.

CARGO:—Per Frch. str. *Tanais* for Hongkong:—Silk for France, 198 bales; Silk for London, 97 bales; Waste Silk, 47 bales; Treasure for London, \$22,000.00.

Per Jap. str. *Saikio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$43,200.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND RIG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STREAMERS.							
Aarhuus	Solling	Danish steamer	251	N'wca'len s.w.	June 4	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Laid up. Repairing. New York.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Glenorchy	Hogg	British steamer	1,775	London		Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Higo Maru	Christensen	Japanese steamer	896	Kobe	May 28	M. B. M. Co.	
Malacca	Smith	British steamer	1,709	Hongkong	June 4	P. & O. Co.	Hongkong &c.
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	
Tokio Maru	Swain	Japanese steamer	2,119	Sha'hai & p'rts	June 5	M. B. M. Co.	Shanghai & ports.
Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Japanese steamer	700	Kobe	June 7	M. B. M. Co.	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	June 7	M. M. Co.	Hongkong &c.
SAILING SHIPS.							
Coldinghame	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	
Coulmakyle	Gordon	British ship	579	London	May 15	L. Kniffier & Co.	
Emma C. Beal.	Bailey	American barque	567	N'wca'len s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	F'r fre'h torch'rt'r.
Fleetwing	Guest	American ship	829	New York	June 7	Grosser & Co.	
Frederik Stang	Uchermann	Norwegian ship	992	N'wca'len s.w.	June 1	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Gondolier	Atkinson	British ship	1,049	N'wca'len s.w.	May 28	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Haze	Evans	American ship	858	New York	June 2	Chin' & J'p'n Tr'ding Co.	
Mary Goodell	Eames	American barque	716	New York	Dec. 20	Lane, Crawford & Co.	
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboy	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	New York.
Eurik	Bergeland	Russian barque	839	N'wca'len s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Callao.
Sooloo	Allen	American ship	961	New York	Dec. 12	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Toowoomba	Kirkpatrick	British barque	585	N'wca'len s.w.	June 4	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Winlow	Barker	British barque	540	Hakodate	June 14	Yokohama Ice Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Monocacy	6	1,370	Sloop	Captain Fyffe.
BRITISH—Juno	8	2,216	Corvette	Captain Poland.
—Modeste	27	1,913	Corvette	Captain Mead.
—Egeria	4	1,011	Sloop	Captain Douglas, R. N.
—Frolic	8	594	Gun vessel	Captain Dupuis.
FRENCH—La Clocheterie	12	1,990	Corvette	Captain Rieunier.
—Cosmao	12	1,900	Corvette	Captain Dumas Vence.
—Armide	—	3,790	Iron Clad	Captain Labarriere.
JAPANESE—Kongo	9	1,800	Corvette	
—Hi-yei	9	1,761	Corvette	
—Foo-so Kan	6	3,718	Corvette	
RUSSIAN—Boyan	8	2,000	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
—Haydamak	8	1,100	Corvette	Captain Tirtoff.
—Abrek	—	1,000	Gun vessel	Captain Schance.

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5 prizes " "	1,000 each.		5 prizes " "	5,000 each	
8 " " "	500 "		15 " " "	1,000 "	
20 " " "	100 "		20 " " "	500 "	
450 " " "	30 "		400 " " "	100 "	
2 approximations of	\$250 "		9 approximations of	\$500 "	
Ticket	\$6.00		2 " " "	250 "	
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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF
JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 25.]

June 22, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.

CHINA, JAPAN, AND 'THE MOST FAVOURED NATION CLAUSE.'

A FORTNIGHT ago, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, generally thought a well-informed, and currently reported to be a semi-official journal, published a very extraordinary account of conversations in which H. E. Mori Arinori, ex-Ambassador to China, was said to have borne part. He was represented to have nearly lost his temper, when taking leave of the members of the Tsung-li-yamên at Peking, and,—in reply to their expressions of good wishes for his welfare and hope of his speedy return,—to have told them roundly that he saw no use in his returning, since he could not get from them what he had come to Peking to obtain,—concessions and increased facilities for trade beyond the original treaty. Next, it was reported that,—having remarked that when the rice subscribed by Japan for relief of the famine-struck Chinese arrived, the Tsung-li-yamên appeared by no means grateful, or even pleased,—he commented upon the circumstance at Tien-tsin to Li-hung-chang, on his way down through that place. And the Chinese statesman is said to have burst out laughing, and replied that, as they had neglected their duty, the Tsung-li-yamên probably felt humiliated at Japan having been beforehand with them in the relief of their own people. Thirdly, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* told us that the Chinese Ambassador here explained to Mori why his demands for revision of the Treaty had not been conceded—viz: that other foreign nations could, and would, have immediately demanded the same advantages. The report of this conversation was admitted by the *Tôkiô* journal to have reached it by transmission through several hands, and a few days afterwards,—the whole story having been translated and commented on by the foreign press here,—it was withdrawn *in toto* as 'having been proved, on enquiry, to be without any foundation in fact.'

We do not believe that H. E. Mori Arinori is in the least degree likely to have made such a mistake as that attributed to him in the first paragraph of this report: he has had sufficient experience in diplomacy to assure him against the commission of such a blunder, which would moreover have been a grave breach of Oriental etiquette. But the remark of Li-hung-chang about the charity rice is too characteristic of the man to let us believe it untrue and—deny it as the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* may,—nothing is more likely than that such a reason as that put into his mouth by the paper's informant was given by the Chinese Ambassador here to Mori for the failure of his mission. This is precisely the true reason why Japan cannot get from China any extension of the original provisions of her treaty with Japan; and though, with respect to the other matters referred to—as private affairs between the two nations in which foreigners are in no way interested,—the foreign press has no concern with them, it is different with regard to

this latter conversation. This has a distinct interest to foreigners, as bearing on the great question of the opening of China, and, as such, is a legitimate one for discussion.

The 'most favoured nation clause' has generally been considered by publicists as possessing, at best, a doubtful value. It has its advantages. It is a great safeguard to a nation against carelessness, indolence, or want of knowledge on the part of the Envoy Plenipotentiary to whom is entrusted the framing of a Commercial Treaty; it ensures, not only that all advantages previously gained by abler or more industrious negotiators shall be secured,—but also anticipates the possession of any that may be hereafter conceded, as, from Time and Friendship Trust is born; and as between the various nations having co-partnership in the arrangement, it is useful; giving all a fair start in the racial race. But we have an opportunity, now, of seeing how heavily it can be brought to bear against the common interests of all. Those who rejoiced when Japan made a Treaty with China,—that at last we had found the key wherewith to open the hitherto impregnable gates of Chinese pride and prejudice, to gain an entrance for our commerce into the largest market of the world, now find the 'most favoured nation clause' used by China as an additional and a most formidable bar. Clearly, in this case, it would have been well for Western nations, had Japan been able to march before us as pioneer, have shown China by her own example that coined money is a more convenient medium of exchange than lumps of silver; that vaccination is a preservative against small-pox; that Western medical science generally is a blessing to mankind, and that Western jurisprudence, and humaner methods of punishing criminals, Western literature, science, and habits of thought generally are more conducive to happiness than the practice and principles hitherto prevailing in the Far East. Granted that Japan might have got a start of us commercially, and, for a time, have enjoyed the possession of markets from which we were debarred, her advantage would only have been a temporary one, which we need not have grudged her, in exchange for the great good her entrance into jealously-guarded China would have effected, in proving that Trade has not necessarily Revolution as a companion, that the erection of a Mint does not involve the downfall of a dynasty, and that telegraph wires, railroads and postal services, do not inevitably lead to the partition of an empire,—while, on the other hand, they do add greatly to the power of a despotic government. It is true that the first of these propositions may not have seemed to them self-evident,—in face of the coincidence of the fall of the Shogûnate following so closely on the signature of the Foreign Treaties; but the Shogûnate was an usurpation of power by a subordinate, with which the Government at Peking would not have much sympathy; and, besides, though it has been generally held that the downfall of the dynasty of Iyeyas was hastened by our advent, fuller know-

ledge of the history of the time does not confirm this theory. Many facts might be adduced to show, on the contrary, that had the last Shogun been a man of firmer character, he could have maintained his position by the aid of foreign support. Whereas the Formosan expedition, we know, has made a great impression on the minds of Chinese statesmen, and they must have seen that the facile suppression of the formidable South-western rebellion last year was entirely due to the power to mass overwhelming force on special points, which this Government possesses in its system of telegraphs and large fleet of foreign-built steamers. The report that the Woosung railway plant is to be used in Formosa, for military purposes, goes to show that the Chinese are by no means blind to the occasional advantage of rapid transport of men and material; and had not 'the most favoured nation clause' opposed the growth of commercial intercourse between China and Japan, it is only reasonable to suppose that Japanese activity might have, in other matters, stimulated progress.

As journalists, we may perhaps be thought to lay too great a stress on the importance of education of the people by means of the printing press—to put too great a value on newspapers and the work they do; but no man who has watched Japanese progress during the last ten years, no man, especially, who has lived in the country, and been on terms of familiar intercourse with the educated classes of its people, but must have remarked the growth of culture and the great development of intelligent curiosity which are mainly attributable to the labours of Japanese journalists. All subjects—political, historical, commercial, social, are eagerly discussed by them. Restricted to a considerable extent, as they still are, in their debates on the politics of their own country, and ignorant, as they necessarily are, of those of foreign nations, the essays on such topics which appear in their columns are feeble and crude in the extreme. But where greater latitude is permitted to them, and where they have fuller knowledge, as upon questions of commerce, they often write sensibly and well, and always with a truly patriotic desire for the advancement of the nation. They seek in foreign newspapers, and from their foreign friends, for information on mercantile subjects, and collect for their readers a mass of information on the details of foreign manufactures and foreign science, as applied to commerce, which is really surprising. An active, pushing, inquisitive people like this could not fail, were freer intercourse permitted them with their neighbours across the China Sea—were they allowed to settle and trade there, bringing with them their newspapers, telegraphs, railways and postal service, their kerosine lamps, tailoring and book-making machinery, their silk filatures and tea-firing machines, and all their multifarious new adaptations of Western mechanical ingenuity—to stir up the Chinese to follow in their steps. So far, all that China has sought to borrow from Western science has been directed to improvement of her powers of offence or defence. The Government has spent large sums in the creation of ship-building yards and arsenals, in stores of cannon, arms and ammunition, and in machinery for their manufacture. But the Government alone has done this, and no encouragement has been given to the arts of peace. The people have been debarred from availing themselves of Western invention for improving manufactures, facilitating transport and inter-communication, and developing the resources of the country, especially its mineral resources. Whereas, in Japan, Government assistance in the form of subsidies, loans, or contracts for the products of industrial enterprises, have been always most freely given; and were Japanese allowed to do in China what they are doing here—opening coal, iron and copper mines, raising and refining petroleum, &c., &c., Japanese capital,

native or borrowed, would be easily found for the work. And the intercourse with the Chinese commercial classes would, in return, greatly benefit Japan. From whatever cause—probably from the long period of degradation of *status* which has oppressed the merchants of Japan, the uncertain tenure of their wealth and the necessity which compelled them—under the feudal system—to affect poverty to escape exaction—it is certain that the moral tone of Japanese commercial men is lower than that of their Chinese neighbours. Breaches of contract in a falling market, embezzlement of foreign money entrusted to natives for the purchase of produce, and other faults which are common here, and which greatly check the development of trade, by frightening away capital, are exceptional in China. And besides that the Chinese merchant could teach the Japanese the advantage of keeping faith and the value of credit, he might give other useful lessons most valuable in trade. In perseverance, in patience, in caution, and—greatly—in steadiness, the solid Chinese merchant is far superior to the flighty, excitable, speculative and thoughtless Japanese. For all these reasons, and for others, which we have now no space to enumerate, it is to be regretted that Mori's efforts to extend Japanese commercial intercourse with China have failed, and should the failure be attributable, as stated, to the existence of 'the most favoured nation clause' in Foreign Treaties, it really becomes a question whether—when opportunity occurs for their revision—it would not be advisable that the clause should be struck out.

THE TEA DUTY SCARE.

THE dispatch to the United States of 28,479 packages of Tea by the *City of Peking* to America, so soon after 20,867 packages had been sent away by the *Belgic*, indicates more than the legitimate progress of business at this period of the season: and all teamen are, we believe, agreed in attributing the increase to the stimulus of the report that the re-imposition of the tea-duty has been again proposed to Congress. It is always uncertain whether that Assembly will accept or refuse the proposition, and it is this uncertainty which is chiefly harmful to the trade. There is no reason whatever why Tea should not be moderately taxed. An article of general consumption, and cheap, it is just one of those from which a Chancellor of the Exchequer can derive considerable revenue without unduly oppressing the people. An enormous amount of nonsense has been spoken and written about 'a free breakfast table' for the artisan;—the fact being that, in their own line, the artisan class are amongst the most extravagant of any community. The artisan—of course, we refer to the skilled labourer who earns good wages,—is not by any means a consumer of cheap tea and, in proportion to his income, spends infinitely more upon this and other edible luxuries than the merchant or landed proprietor. Nothing but new-laid eggs, the best of milk and fresh butter, French bread or hot rolls, with a relish in the shape of ham, bloater, or rasher of bacon, water-cressacs or shrimps, compose the breakfast and afternoon meal of the 'artisan,' and cheap tea he utterly repudiates. Threepence or even sixpence a pound added to the price of his tea is an item that in no way alarms him in his wife's weekly expenditure and, from the nature of the trade, it is not upon him, the consumer, that the increase of duty wholly falls—as he never, either, gets much of the benefit of a decrease. The profits made by the middlemen between importer and consumer are so great, while the competition between the dealers in the article is so keen, that before the wave of increase can reach the artisan, it is split up and divided to such an extent that he does not feel its impact. Whereas it is from moderate duties on such articles as Tea, of

general and continually increasing consumption, that revenue can be most easily raised and can be most certainly depended on. Not a murmur is heard when the necessity of a country, such as war, compels the imposition of an indirect tax on such an article. The consumer always reflects that he can easily save the extra amount in price—and, as he knows, very small share of it falls on him—by consuming less. But nevertheless he does not consume less. He may say at his breakfast table that now Tea is going to be dear, it must be carefully used, but at the year's end—if he kept detailed household accounts, which he does not, he would find that not a pound less of the luxury had been consumed.

It should also be remarked that in all the cases of removal or reduction of duties on such articles as Tea, Sugar, &c., it has never been the consumer who has agitated for the reform. It has always been the importer or wholesale grocer who has raised the cry, and put forward the consumer, who never opens his mouth, as the stalking horse behind which he brings down his own game. And when the duty has been reduced, it is he again who profits by it, sharing the plunder with all his subordinates down to the retail grocer. The consumer who asks, when the half-pound or pound of tea is purchased, why the packet is not threepence or sixpence cheaper than formerly,—since that amount of duty has been taken off, is told that he gets the benefit in the shape of a better article, that the present packet is threepence or sixpence better in *quality*,—and he goes away perfectly satisfied, though the tea has really come out of just the same old stock.

To the importer, the imposition of a moderate duty—and we must be understood to be arguing in favour of only a moderate impost,—of a productive, not of a protective duty,—matters not a whit. The duty is calculated among his charges and affects proportionately the price he can afford to give for his tea, here, or the price at which he can afford to sell it, there. But what he detests, what disturbs his calculations, and dislocates his trade, is uncertainty. This possibility of re-imposition of the tea-duty in America, for instance, has been presented to him, three times during the last three years of this country's tea-trade with the States. The consequence is, of course, a sudden demand, in order to get as much into stock as possible before the duty comes into operation, a consequent stiffening of prices here and the excitation of baseless expectations in the minds of tea-grocers. The duty is not imposed, and then re-action sets in, the unnecessarily large stocks have to be cleared off at a loss, the purchasing markets here become dull—for the native, always eagerly responsive to a rise, is never ready to accept his share of a fall; and,—generally,—there recurs what we have called a 'dislocation' of business relations and of trade. Let the duty be put on, once for all, and kept on—the trade can very well carry it, as it has carried it before, but the tea-merchant may well cry 'Save me from my friends'—when they first frighten him into buying more than he wants and raise foreign values by the threat of imposing the duty, and then depress the home value of his over-stocks by not doing it. Fortunately the Japanese newspapers, which are increasing in circulation at a marvellous rate, give a great deal of their attention to commercial subjects like this, and some writers in them are quite capable of understanding the reasons for such sudden and increased demand as we have just witnessed, and they explain them to their clients. Still, though the mischief done is rather less than before the existence of such *media* of information to the tea-grower, it is only, as yet, slightly diminished, and enough remains to justify us in deprecating its cause, in those columns, in the interests of Japanese tea-growers, as well as in defence of foreign tea-buyers.

THE STRENGTH OF ENGLAND.

SOME time ago, one of the native papers speculated on the probable consequences of war between England and Russia upon foreign trade generally, and particularly on that of England itself, predicting a variety of disasters and anticipating great loss to English commerce. As we mentioned then, the very trifling increase in marine insurance made to cover war risk, at that time, when war seemed far more imminent than it does now, was of itself a sufficient answer to the native critic. We quote, in this issue, an article from *The Times*, which affords not only a most instructive lesson to Japanese journalists, as to the real condition and strength of the English Empire compared with that of Russia, and the immensely, almost incredibly superior amount of our resources, and ability to bear taxation; but the perusal of which ought at the same time to reassure such Englishmen—of whom we regret to say there are not a few—who have doubted and almost despaired of the fortunes of their country. The article should have, for the Japanese, additional and special interest, as showing to what development, under her commercial and colonial system, the commerce of England has grown, and, especially, how rapid has been its growth during the Free Trade period. Japan aspires to be a manufacturing nation, apparently, and though we would by no means be understood thereby to commit ourselves to approval of her desire,—because the question is yet in abeyance whether she should not rather devote herself to the production of raw materials,—we may say that in the study of the example of England, and of her manufacturing history for the last thirty years, she may find the way to become one.

In modern warfare, expenditure has to be so infinitely greater than formerly, that the power of supporting taxation is as important an element of success as that of massing large bodies of troops. The Franco-Austrian, Austro-Prussian, and Franco-German wars were all necessarily short wars, because none of the nations engaged, whether victors or vanquished, could bear the strain of expenditure necessary to keep in the field such enormous bodies of men. But in any war in which England may engage, she has these two great advantages: she has no need to keep on foot an enormous army, whereas her resources are practically inexhaustible, and any enemy must become bankrupt before, in England, taxation becomes even oppressive. It may be said that fleets cost as much as armies; but then it must be remembered that, for the protection of her commerce and the police of the seas, England's fleets have always to be kept up, and the difference between Navy expenditures in peace and war is trifling compared to that between the peace and war budgets of continental armies. Not that the military resources of the Empire are at all less than those of her Navy, but they require developing. They cannot be so rapidly mobilised as those of Germany, Russia or France; but, counted as these countries' forces are by hundreds of thousands, our's would, as war went on, necessarily outnumber them, on account of our having such enormous reserves of population to draw upon. As *The Times* very accurately argues, England is not only the little island in the North Sea, with a population of 28,000,000, but the greater England, extended over all the world, with a colonial population of 250,000,000; and, being unassailable in its centre,—England proper—nothing but time is required to draw from such a population, such masses of troops as would be far more than we should require in any possible contest. And, meanwhile, the pressure of expenditure, which would be crippling our adversaries, could be most easily borne by ourselves. The statements of Mr. Farrer in the *Fortnightly Review*, which form the basis of *The Times'* article would be incredible, did we not know that his position as Secretary of the Board of Trade enables him to make them

with authority, and with certainty of their being correct. Imagination almost fails to grasp the meaning of such figures as £8,600,000,000—yet eighty-six hundred millions sterling is pronounced, by the best statistical authority, to be under, rather than over, the amount of the capital possessed by the people of the United Kingdom: and over three-quarters of this—£6,600,000,000—has been accumulated within the last sixty years. What are the expenses of a three years' war to such a mass of wealth as this? The Crimean war cost us a hundred millions and more; yet in twenty years, this cost has been entirely wiped out of the country's books: our National Debt is now less than it was in 1857, at the close of the war with Russia, though we have since had also to bear the cost of suppressing the formidable Indian Mutiny, and of a number of petty, but expensive contests in various parts of the world. As *The Times* shows, the assessments to the Income tax, only one source of revenue, were in 1875 £536,000,000, four times what they were sixty years ago, and whereas, in 1815, the people of Great Britain, with an average income of £25 per head, could spare one hundred millions sterling for the purposes of the State, it is clear that a population doubled, and enjoying an average income of £50 per head, could not only spare two hundred millions, but a very much larger sum. And what other nation in the world could do this? Certainly not Russia, with her existing revenue of seventy millions only, raised with much difficulty and with such pressure of taxation, that it is doubtful now, whether her people could bear an extra squeeze for ten millions more, and more than doubtful whether her present Government dare venture another turn of the screw. Whereas, with our Income tax at 3d., and not a dozen sources of indirect taxation used, we raised seventy-nine millions last year, from a population a third of Russia's, and without an effort.

We do not wish to write more of a paraphrase of *The Times'* article, nor is it with any spirit of boastfulness or vain-glory that we have written so much; but these are 'facts not generally known.' We strongly recommend to our readers, native and foreign, the careful perusal of the article in its entirety. They will rise from it, as we have done, with the conviction that the conclusion of its able author is correct:—'that our power is so great and manifest that we may abstain from mere display'—that we may treat with indifference the notion that our calm reliance on our latent strength, and abstention from interference in others' quarrels, indicate decay of national spirit; that, except where our own interests are involved, we may safely sit quiet, and that if we thereby incur what is called 'loss of prestige,' we can afford to do so;—that, to conclude in the very words of the writer:—

"The strength we have acquired during long years of peace, and our daily growing strength as our numbers and capital increase, should dispose us to be less and not more jealous of alleged encroachments—more and not less disposed to go our own way, and pursue our own policy, as we see other nations oppressed by the burden of enormous armaments and wasting every now and again in a few years or months of war the fruits of many years of peace."

WE have to put on record the following Government Notification respecting the storage of grain:—

NOTIFICATION BY THE OKURASHO,
(FINANCE DEPARTMENT.)

No. 27B. 20th day, 6th month, 11th year of
Meiji (20th June 1878.)

To *Fu* and *Ken*.

It is hereby notified that, as a *Jo-hei Kiyoku* (sub-department to administer the storing of rice, corn, &c.) will be established and opened on the 1st day of the 7th month next, (1st July) all communications upon matters concern-

ing rice, corn, &c., which have hitherto been made to the *Suitō Kiyoku* should be addressed to the before-mentioned office from and after the above-mentioned date.

(Signed) OKUMA SHIGENOBU,
(Minister for Financial Affairs.)

EDITORIAL NOTES.

REFERRING to what we have written elsewhere on the Duty Scare in this country's Tea-trade with the States, last mail brings us news of something similar in the London market.

At the commencement of April last, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget was on the point of being laid before the House of Commons, an increase in the duty on Tea was anticipated as a very probable war-tax, to aid in providing for the six millions just voted, and between the 1st and 4th of April, the London dealers cleared no less than fourteen million pounds of Tea—figures which, by the way, will give our native readers some notion of the magnitude of the trade.

The Income tax and Tobacco duty were increased, and Tea left untouched, until a further stage in the European quarrel; but that the merchants who paid this large amount of duty on speculation were wise in their generation will be allowed by such of our readers whose memories can carry them back to the days of the Crimean war. These will remember that in the April of 1855, the Tea duty was raised in one day from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 9d. per lb., and several dealers who had foreseen, as now, the possibility of the increase, made large sums of money by clearing their stocks; one firm, known to the writer, being reported to have cleared £10,000 and another £4,000 by the transaction. History has not quite repeated itself on this occasion, and it is to be hoped that the Congress now sitting in Berlin will succeed in averting from Europe the evils of war and establish on a firm footing peace and good-will, though far-seeing or well-informed tea-dealers may perhaps miss a good chance of making small fortunes in an afternoon.

THREE of the leading papers of the capital have been busily engaged during the last fortnight, in the discussion of the all-important question of the circulation of the Trade Dollar. We attempt, in the columns which we dedicate to translations from the native Press, to reflect, as far as possible, Japanese opinion upon the questions of the day. Our space is not sufficient to enable us to do this fully, and we have necessarily to select such essays for re-production as bear upon the question most important for the moment. To a journal like this, which is—before everything, a Commercial Review, subjects so vital to Trade Finance and Currency must necessarily occupy a large share of our attention. This must be our excuse for taking up so many columns as we do to-day, with the discussion of this single question. It will be remarked that the balance of native opinion is in favour of a single standard—silver, and that the point we made in our first article on the question has been at last picked up:—that a prime necessity for success in the crusade against the Mexican Dollar is that it should be disabled,—by Treaty Revision,—from competition with the nation's own coinage:—a concession which no reasonable man or diplomatist would deny. It remains for Japanese journalists and Japanese Ministers to appreciate the truths—that a coin of 420 grains, though intrinsically better, is financially at a disadvantage in comparison with an established coin of the same denomination, of 417.60 grains; that the former will never supersede the latter in these markets; and that the Mexican can only be supplanted by a coin of precisely the same weight and fineness. They may call it 'dollar,' 'yen,' 'trade dollar'—what they will; but 'to this complexion they must come at last,' if Japan is to take Mexico's place as the source of a coined medium of exchange for the trade of the Far East.

ON THURSDAY, (20th inst.) the first parcel of new season's Silk arrived on this market: consisting of four bales of Hatchoji hanks, a very mixed lot, about No 3, little 2½. They were secured by one of our buyers at \$520 @ \$525 per picul. At the time this was considered

a fancy price and we hear that the silk has since been inspected and finally settled at \$490.

Yesterday, about ten bales more arrived, in several parcels, consisting of Takasaki and Hatchoji hanks, but for these, holders and sellers have, up to the moment of writing, been unable to come to terms. Holders are asking about \$540 @ \$550 per picul, and the most sanguine buyers have, so far, not offered more than \$510, which price, even, appears to us too high, considering the last advices received from home.

It is to be hoped that buyers, merely for the sake of competition, will not be led to pay prices which are not justified by our European news: as such action tends greatly to mislead the Japanese merchants here. Not understanding our application of 'fancy' to business, or not believing in the exceptional character of such transactions, they buy, or contract in the interior at proportionately high rates; thereafter becoming difficult to deal with, when the attempt has to be made to lower their subsequent pretensions, and are then obstinate in their endeavour to evade the heavy losses into which they have been beguiled by the indiscretion of one or two early buyers.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1878.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, June 21, 1878.

THE *Tibre* with the Marseilles mail of May 4th arrived on Monday last. The *Orissa* with the London mail of May 10th is expected to-morrow, having left Hongkong on Saturday last at 4 p.m. Early next week, the *China* from San Francisco on the 4th inst. may be looked for. The next outgoing mail steamer is the *Volga* leaving on Wednesday morning next, her mail will be due in London August 19th. Two inward and four outward steamers have arrived from and departed for Hakodate; and the usual Shanghai and coast port steamers have arrived and departed during the week. The *City of Peking* left for San Francisco on Wednesday last at 11 a.m.

That we should have left ourselves scant space on this occasion for our 'Notes of the Week,'—that there should be little to write about, and that the writer should feel extremely 'out of form' for what he usually regards as a pleasure, instead of a task, are circumstances which combine into a coincidence, perhaps more convenient for ourselves than comforting to our constituents. But over circumstances, control is often wanting, as the proverb tells; and a rising thermometer, with a barometer indicating increased pressure; want of 'straw' out of which to make our 'bricks'; a variety of mental botherations of no interest to any one but their proprietor; and—on the top of everything—considerable physical discomfort, are not—taken all in all, such as we care to see their like again—as Shakespeare says,—or words to that effect. It is therefore to be hoped that to this hebdomadal record of events is applicable that great truth enunciated by another English poet:—

'Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long' (which is probably the reason why cabmen, watermen, *et id genus omne* invariably ask one for 'something short');—for certainly on this occasion we shall be brief, though we may lay no other claim to be amusing.

The event which has most interested mercantile Yokohama has been the departure of the P. M. S. Co's *City of Peking*, with a very large cargo of new teas. As she made, from Hongkong hither, the fastest trip on record, she is expected to land her fragrant burden in San Francisco in some hitherto unbeaten time. A good deal of grumbling was heard on the day of her departure,—not without cause. She stood too long on the order of her going, instead of going at once, and merchants and bankers lost a night's untroubled rest, from the Agent's inability or neglect to fix the hour of her departure. Advertised to go at daylight on the 19th,

she did not leave till nearly noon, and but for an act of kindly courtesy on the part of one of the gentlemen in the office,—who went round the settlement at midnight to communicate the fact unofficially that her departure would be postponed, no one would have known it, and correspondence clerks and deputy-accountants would have been out of their beds all night. It was bad enough, as it was. No official notice was given, and yet, surely, the impossibility of her getting off at daybreak next morning must have been known to the Agent (if not, it should have been) before 10 p.m. The commercial public justly felt aggrieved at this omission, and though peace was patched up in the way we have mentioned, this harmony requires to be properly fostered, if the Company and its constituents are to remain on good terms. The same fault has to be noticed occasionally at another centre of trans-Pacific dispatch, and if both Companies are not more careful in future, the Banks may be roused to interfere. The despatch of these steamers, running as they do at unfixed dates, is virtually under the control of these latter institutions, as we may, perhaps, some day indicate.

We have received, too late for insertion this week, another letter from 'Nauticus' on the management of the national steamship line. This impecunious concern has been advertising itself at Osaka, we see, by entertaining the public with nautches, illuminations, fireworks and free *sake* for a week or ten days, as a commentary on their Manager's report of virtual insolvency, or in commemoration of the consequent rise in rates of freight and passage. 'Nauticus' letter will appear next week.

Nine days since the European Congress met, and still no news. The Southern line is out of order: that no public messages should be allowed to come by the Russian line looks as if affairs were going badly for the Tsar.

The political excitement mentioned last week continues in Tokio, and arrests of Tosa men and of supposed sympathizers with them are made daily. It is reported that Itagaki has been arrested, and Goto Shojiro is freely mentioned as being in danger; but though we have fair foreign authority for stating these circumstances, our native correspondent in the capital tells us nothing about them. The rumour that Tani, the defender of Kumamoto, had been assassinated, or attacked, is untrue; but the Kochi *ken* is in a state of excitement, troops have been called out, barracks prepared for defence. By no means an insignificant fact is the announcement that Government intends to buy up all fire-arms, except fowling pieces, in the possession of private individuals. One of the Tokio newspapers has an article on the subject, commending the measure. Apparently, one of the charges brought against the ring-leaders of the Tosa plot is founded on their accumulation of munitions of war. The Government is quite right: private individuals or clubs have no need of rifled cannon.

The Mikado's progress through the North and West is, however, to be persevered with, and H. E. Hayashi, Junior Vice-Minister of the Home department, is to leave Tokio about the 10th proximo, with a suitable staff, to make the necessary preparations along the Emperor's route. The new men-of-war recently arrived from England, are to proceed northwards at the same time. During the week the Minister of Public Works, Ito *sangi*, has inspected the vessels. The *Tsukuba-Kan*, the vessel which carried the Japanese flag into Australian waters, returned hither last Friday from Sydney, having left port on the 27th of April.

H. E. Yamagata, Minister for war, is inspecting the Osaka garrison, and the troops all over the country are in a thoroughly effective state. There is no chance of successful insurrection against the present Government, so that these abortive attempts and consequent excitement, are all the more regrettable.

The Internal Loan progresses slowly; about 6½ millions have been subscribed, but much of it by Governmentally subsidized or supported institutions. The people do not subscribe spontaneously, and what has been got from Kwazoku, monasteries, banks and Public Companies, has not been obtained without pressure. It would have been wiser to have raised a foreign loan; this has too much the appearance of a 'benevolence' of our own old history.

From Kobe we are advised by telegram of the return of Mr. Groom to the Municipal Council by a large majority, which completely vindicates all that we have lately written upon Kobe and its foreign management.

From China the reports from the famine-desolated provinces are as bad as ever. There seems hardly any prospect of a crop this year the seed having been mostly eaten and the ground generally untilled. Matters are not quite so bad in Chihli, but there is great want of seed corn. The Government now proposes to raise a 'loan' from the wealthier people by means of bonds redeemable in ten years and bearing no interest. The authorities are fully in earnest and Mr. Forrest, H. M. Consul at Tientsin, state

that thousands of tons of food are now being sent into the famine districts. They are late: only one quarter of the original population now remain alive in Honan, Shansi and parts of Chihli. Half of the seventy-five per cent gone have emigrated to Mongolia and the South, dropping in thousands as they moved, of course,—the remainder died on the spot.

After several unsuccessful attempts, the P. & O. steamer China was raised from the bottom of Bombay harbour on the 15th May. She is found much injured and much time and money will have to be expended on her to make her seaworthy. Bombay harbour, we notice, is being put into a state of defence by means of torpedoes.

We are requested to notify to the public that postage on letters per French Mail to all Postal Union countries is reduced to 35 centimes per 15 grammes or fraction thereof, for pre-paid letters, and to 60 centimes for unpaid letters. Respecting the rates on letters for places outside of the Postal Union enquiry must be made at the Office.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

ON THE CIRCULATION OF THE NEW TRADE DOLLAR.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

PUBLIC Notice was given on the 27th ulto. by the Notification No. 12 of the *Daijokwan* (Council of State) to the effect that "the Silver Trade Dollars, which had hitherto been coined only for the convenience of Trade in the open ports, shall hereafter be free to circulate generally and therefore may be used in paying taxes and in all business transactions, either public or private." From careful consideration of this Notification and its causes, it would appear that the object of it is to sweep away the Mexican Dollar by means of the Silver Trade Dollar. That the Mexican Dollar has done injury to trade in our markets and has placed our merchants in a dangerous position, has long been well known to the public, and in consequence of the inconvenience in dealing with them, of having to calculate a double exchange, the damage sustained by trade is not small. As, however, the Mexican Dollar had the opportunity of entering the country at the opening of the ports, when there was no coin current here on which foreigners could rely, and has since gained ground, it has now become supreme in our markets. This chance of its being the first coin used, and since, long-established custom have put it in such a position that the people have gone on using it, in spite of its inconvenience, not having the courage to sweep it away, although it is generally detested. Indeed we may go so far as to say that it is the greatest obstruction to trade.

Our Government having, some time ago, remarked that the Mexican Dollar had acquired great power in our markets, and was the cause of great inconvenience, coined a silver piece to supplant it, which was named the 'Silver Trade Dollar.' It is 900 fine and its weight is 420 grains and if compared with the Mexican Dollar, which is also 900 fine, but only 416 grains, and which has lately deteriorated in quality, * ours is certainly a creditable coin. But alas! as the Silver Trade Dollar did not do the work of sweeping away the Mexican, the good intention of the Government was vain, to the great regret of merchants. The Government having put in execution the scheme of replacing the Mexican dollar by the Japanese trade dollar, could not bear to see its efforts fail and determined to persevere. Otherwise, it would have been better to have remained satisfied with the old system. But, to persist in carrying out its scheme, some contrivance was necessary to give the Trade Dollar an advantage over the Mexican which would enable it to push it out. Was not this idea the Government's motive in giving general circulation to the coin by Notification No. 12?

Though the area of circulation of the Mexican Dollar is very limited, since it cannot be received in payment of taxes,†

cannot circulate outside the foreign concessions, and is not in general circulation even in foreign countries; yet as it was the first coin used, and thus its position was assured,—the Trade Dollar, which appeared afterwards, has not been able to defeat it, because the area of circulation of the Trade Dollar being also limited to the open ports, it had no advantage over its rival. Though its quality was good, it did not differ much from that of the Mexican: and thus, as a matter of course, the first comer gets the victory over the later. But it may now be taken for granted that the Government, having given to the Trade Dollar the advantage of general circulation and thus the power of superseding the Mexican, has put it in a position to do so. Every one knows that the Mexican Dollar is an encumbrance on trade. Now it is to be swept away and every one will be glad of this. Should the scheme really succeed, it would certainly be a great advantage.

Such other revisions as have been made in the Note to Art. 4 of the Coinage Regulations; (respecting the limit of the amount of silver bullion receivable by the Mint for coinage), reducing the limit of bullion receivable from 1000 to 500 ounces; in Art. 9 (respecting the period to elapse between the receipt of bullion and delivery of coin), reducing the period from twenty days to ten; in Art. 11 (respecting the charge for coinage), reducing the charge from $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 1 per cent; and in Art. 13 (respecting the charge for re-coining), reducing the charge from 10 per mil to 5 per mil;—these changes seem all directed to the end of extending the currency of our Silver Trade Dollar. But what financiers are uneasy about and doubtful of is lest Trade Dollars should not be coined in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of trade, and thus, a scarcity of current coin being produced, it would be impossible for the Mexican to be pushed out by the Trade Dollar. And to these other questions also we are unable to reply:—would the Government, when the demand for the Silver Trade Dollar shall have increased, by virtue of these Regulations extending its currency—find no difficulty in meeting it? Would it be able to keep in the Mint a sufficient reserve of dollars always on hand to meet the possible demand for exchange against bar-silver? Would the coinage from bullion sent in by foreigners or from the interior be always sufficient to meet the requirements of trade without importation? Would the Mint be worked at a profit? and finally, will the Mexican Dollar thus be swept away? Of course, should this measure succeed, without causing any scarcity of coin, it must necessarily be praised as good.

But even should the numbers of Trade Dollars coined be insufficient to meet demand, still if,—on account of its better quality—it gets to be taken in preference to the Mexican and the area of its circulation is extended, this would in some measure lessen the power of the latter to create the extraordinary fluctuations which it now makes in our markets. That it has so much power, and creates such fluctuations, is due to its being the only coin current. But if our Trade Dollar is able to compete successfully with the Mexican, then, even though it may not be able to sweep it away entirely—still in proportion to the position it will assume with respect to the Mexican, it will decrease the power of the latter and more or less diminish the injury it causes. Such a victory would however only be temporary and must not be expected to be permanent.*

Some have jumped to the conclusion that this revision in the Regulations affecting the circulation of our Trade Dollar amounts to creating a double standard—of gold and silver. But the plain wording of the Revision Regulation is simply to the effect that

"These Silver Trade Dollars may be used in paying 'Customs' duties and any other taxes paid by foreigners; in all business transactions between Japanese and foreigners; also in payment of all taxes in the interior; and in all other payments public or private, the same shall be a legal tender to any amount."

We do not see any meaning expressed in this that the Silver Trade Dollar is given equal rank with gold coin or that the power of a standard is given to it.† The Revision

* The writer is in error: 417.69 is the average weight of the Mexican Dollar now, a figure at which we arrive from the weighing and comparison of many thousands. Why he should say that they have deteriorated in quality is not clear, but probably he refers to the recent change in the device, which was available only by Chinese shroffs to create another grade. Ed. J.T.

† The author should have excepted customs duties, which by treaty are payable in dollars as a substitute for the now non-existent silver *bas*. Ed. J.T.

* We presume the writer means that permanent good can only be achieved by the coin's suppression of the Mexican. Ed. J.T.

† It is not easy, on the other hand, to make any other meaning out of these words—or to conceive a more distinct definition of a standard coin. Ed. J.T.

of the Regulations has been made simply with the view of ousting the Mexican and to give the Silver Trade Dollar the power to do this. That is to say, to make the new Dollar serve as a Trade Dollar only, and to enable it to take the Mexican's place. Thus the object of the revision is not to make Gold and Silver of equal rank as standards,* but simply to sweep away the Mexican by means of the Trade Dollar. Those who conclude, from this special power having been given to the Trade Dollar, Gold and Silver are both made standards; can only be said to take a superficial view of the matter. The Silver Trade Dollar is only a piece having no fixed name or rank, and without a fixed name or rank, how can it acquire the position of a standard, or attain to the chief place? The conditions of its circulation will be just the same as the Mexican Dollar's. If it had been called a *Riyô* or *Yen* and thus had fixed name and rank, and had been made a coin of general circulation, then it might have been said to have acquired the position of a standard. But so long as it has no fixed name and rank, and its rate depends upon foreign influences, not only can it never take the chief place, but it must always stand in a secondary relative position to gold coin. Therefore the argument that Gold and Silver have now both acquired the position of standards is incorrect.

As transactions in the interior are generally made by means of paper money at present, even if the Trade Dollar had general circulation, it would not take the place of paper. How much less so, if the supply of Dollars is insufficient? *Even though the Silver Trade Dollar had acquired the power of general circulation, it would be unable to exercise that power at once. But the consequence of the inconvenience inflicted on trade by the Mexican Dollar will naturally assist the Trade Dollar to stand against it.* The power given to it is merely as a means of opposing the Mexican, and its qualification of general circulation will only tend to bring the coin all to one place (the *emporium* of foreign trade.)

Thus the Trade Dollar will not really circulate generally in the country, but will remain within the limits of the markets of foreign trade. If it did circulate generally, the endeavour to defeat the Mexican Dollar would not be successful, as a matter of course. But we believe that,—on account of the stimulus caused by the pressure of inconvenience arising from use of the Mexican, and the qualifications which fit the Trade Dollar to take its place, and also from the scarcity of supply of the Mexican,—in the markets of foreign trade the Trade Dollar will chiefly circulate. Such a scheme as defeating the Mexican Dollar by giving general currency to our own is a matter for rejoicing, but we are wishful at the same time that the country should be protected from the vicious system of a double standard of both Gold and Silver.

But the Mexican dollar at present standing alone in Oriental Markets, the amount of them in circulation is not small. If it be intended to replace them with our Silver Trade Dollars, the supply of them to be coined must necessarily be large. If, on account of our not having sufficient bullion to meet the demand, we cannot entirely succeed in our attempt, and have to leave the Mexican to remain in currency in our markets; then though the presence of the Trade Dollar may prevent any extraordinary fluctuations, this will only be for a time, and we cannot be sure that the Trade Dollar may not again be driven out by the Mexican. Consequently, if Government wishes to succeed in the attempt which it has announced its intention of making—in order to make the Trade Dollar serviceable to that end, it must be careful not to allow of any scarcity in the supply. Then it will secure for our coin a complete victory in the markets of foreign trade, sweep away the exorcism of the Mexican Dollar, which has for so many years been the cause of danger and inconvenience to our foreign commerce, and leave the East without a trace of its presence. But should it only be contemplated to place it in competition with the Mexican, though for a time it may succeed in diminishing the influence of the latter, the inconvenience and injury to trade caused will not be slight.

(From the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*.)

BEFORE proceeding to argue on the advantages or disadvantages of having two standards of gold and silver, and also on changing from gold to silver, we must first consider the changes made in the standards up to the present time. A double standard of gold and silver coins has existed

* The object of the revisers may not have been this, but it is indubitably the effect of the revision. Ed. J.T.

for a long time in Japan, whereof a plain proof is found in the fact that there was no limit to the circulation of both gold and silver coins in the reigns of the Shôguns. When, shortly after the Restoration, Government decided to recoining all the money, and to establish a Mint in Osaka, though it was argued by some that Osaka was not a proper place, as it was believed then by the Government that Osaka, being in the centre of the country, with the harbour of Kobe close at hand, would unmistakably become some day the centre of trade, it decided on commencing the Mint at Osaka. But alas! the experience of seven years since that time having proved that the most flourishing point of trade is always in Tôkiô, the public have had cause to complain more and more of the inconvenience of the Mint having been established in Osaka instead of in Tôkiô. But the railway between Saikai (Kioto) and Kobe has, by the energy of the authorities, been built; and the Mail steamers, by the industry of the Mitsubishi Company, are constantly navigating to and fro; and thus the convenience of traffic by land and sea is, as time elapses, more and more facilitated. The time may come, therefore, after some years, when the authorities will be praised for their foresight in establishing the Mint at Osaka. We must therefore not jump to a conclusion now—as to the advantages or disadvantages of the situation, but wait until a future occasion. When the question of recoinage was being discussed, the authorities, regretted the innumerable injuries which would actually be inflicted, always, on markets from continuing to have the two standard coins of gold and silver of the Shôguns' reign and wished to fix one single standard. They, therefore, brought the question forward for discussion, and the then Manager of the branch office here of the Oriental Bank Corporation argued that silver coins being in circulation in China and India, making silver the standard would be found ultimately most convenient and profitable and most suitable for Japan; and his opinion being supported by the British Minister, some of our authorities concerned were, we heard, in favour of adopting it. But the commissioners who had been dispatched to England having heard it argued that silver was falling gradually out of favour as a standard in the mercantile world, thought that the best policy for Japan to secure her future prosperity would be at once to fix the standard coin in gold, so as to avoid suffering from the same inconvenience as that experienced in the Oriental silver-using countries; and those commissioners who were dispatched to America being convinced that, unless gold be made the standard here, not only would it be unprofitable for us to trade with Europe and America, but also would be opposed to general uniformity, and would finally be a cause of loss;—therefore these thought that it would be better, in accordance with the decision of the International Conference on Coinage held in Paris in 1867, 1st to make gold the standard; 2ndly, to fix the fineness of the gold coin at 900 per 1,000; and 3rdly, to fix the weights by the metric system; thus advancing ahead of Europe and America in the question of International current coin. The Government approved this as decidedly the right course, and in consequence, notified the New Coinage Regulations in 1871 and settled the weight of pure gold in the 5 *yen* piece to be 7½ *grammes* (that in the 1 *yen* piece to be 1½ *gramme* and that in the 20 *yen* to be 30) and so hoped that when Europe and America should have adopted the International current coinage system, Japan would have the convenience of her 5 *yen* coin being of the same weight and quality as a 5 dollar piece of America, an English sovereign, 25 franc piece of France and 20 mark piece of Germany. But though then, advocates of the International coinage system abroad constantly praised Japan that, so young a country, she should be the first to adopt this grand system and argued that all the world would soon follow her example in adopting it; yet we observe that, actually, each State adopts what itself considers best, and up to the present time the International coinage system exists only in theory; and, with the exception of our own country, it is actually adopted neither in America or Europe.

Although as above shown, a single standard of gold coin was actually adopted and silver coins of and under 50 *sen* were decided, in 1871, to be subsidiary coins, yet in the markets of foreign trade, business was actually and unchangeably done with the Mexican Dollar—and, compelled by the plain wording of the Treaty, and by the force of long-continued habit, it was not possible at once to abandon the use of Mexican Dollars in paying Customs' duties and in business transactions generally. On the other hand, the Mexican Dollar,

not having been in the least deprived of its power by the gold coin being made the standard, in order to sweep away the Mexican Dollar from the markets, Government then coined the *silver yen* piece of 416 grains, and made it circulate within the limits of the open ports. From that time, in reality, gold and silver were both in the position of standard coins. But, on account of the one *yen* silver coin being lighter in weight than the Mexican Dollar and not as yet being thought reliable in China, the Government, suffering more or less difficulty as the price of silver fluctuated, and foreseeing more, before it could accomplish its object of sweeping away the Mexican Dollar—took, a few years after, the opportunity of an accident, to cease coining the silver one *yen* coin, and returned to the single standard of gold, thus allowing the Mexican Dollar to usurp more and more power in the markets.

Then, in America, a trade dollar having been coined, and it being intended to export it to other countries in opposition to the Mexican Dollar, our country also took the same course, coined a Trade Dollar of 420 grains, and circulated this in lieu of the silver *yen*, thus again actually adopting a double standard of gold and silver, and so we have gone on until the present day. Now, fortunately, there being no proper and reliable silver coin in China and India, our Government, wishing to extend the area of circulation of our Silver Trade Dollars by seizing this opportunity—which will also enable us to sweep away the Mexican Dollar here, has in the recent Notification, we believe meant to notify the making of this silver coin standard. And though, in fact, from 1871 to the 27th of May 1878 nominally the gold coin was the only standard coin, in reality neither gold and silver has ever entirely abdicated the position of standard coins.

(From the 'Chingai Bakka Shimpō'.)

IN No 97 of this paper, we expressed a portion of our views on the Notification No 12 authorizing a change in the currency of the Silver Trade Dollar but the editor of that valuable paper, the *Hōchi Shimbun*, has argued the whole subject carefully and completely. His idea that the object of the change (in the Notification) is to sweep away the Mexican dollar, agrees with our own view, and we are obliged for his having expressed so far our views better than we could have done ourselves. However, in the latter part of his article he states reasons for not considering gold and silver now as both being standards, and thus indirectly attacks what we had previously written on the subject. On this one point, as we greatly differ from him, we now write again, to support our previous arguments, as a reply to the editor of the *Hōchi Shimbun*, and also for public information. The editor of the *Hōchi* says:—

"Some have jumped to the conclusion that this revision in the Regulations affecting the circulation of our Trade Dollar amounts to creating a double standard—of gold and silver. But the plain wording of the Revision Regulation is simply to the effect that

'These Silver Trade Dollars may be used in paying Customs' duties and any other taxes paid by foreigners; in all business transactions between Japanese and foreigners; also in payment of all taxes in the interior; and in all other payments, public or private, the same shall be a legal tender to any amount' and he goes on to say:—

"We do not see any meaning expressed in this that the 'Silver Trade Dollar is given equal rank with gold coin or that the power of a standard is given to it. The Revision of the Regulations has been made simply with the view of ousting the Mexican and to give the Silver Trade Dollar the power to do this. That is to say, to make the New Dollar serve as a Trade Dollar only, and to enable it to take the Mexican's place. Thus the object of the revision is not to make Gold and Silver of equal rank as standards, but simply to sweep away the Mexican by means of the Trade Dollar. . . . The Silver Trade Dollar is only a piece having no fixed name and rank, and without a fixed name and rank, how can it acquire the position of a standard, or attain to the chief place? &c. &c."

These are the principal points where our previous argument is attacked. But how is it, that the Editor of the *Hōchi*, whilst carefully publishing in full the paragraph quoted from the Notification, cannot see that the meaning of it is to give the Silver Trade Dollar the power of a standard and equal rank with gold coin? If they may be used in paying the Customs' duties, and any other taxes paid by

foreigners; and in all business transactions between natives and foreigners; also in payment of all taxes in the interior, and in all other payments, public or private; and is a legal tender to any amount—there are no other services besides these which gold or paper can render; and we, on the contrary, cannot discover any meaning in the paragraph which makes against their being constituted standard coin.

His point that they 'have no fixed name or fixed rank' is simply a question of their title, and—the general title of coins in our country being *yen*, one Silver Trade Dollar coin is counted in transactions as one *yen*. This is what actually takes place, and though simply in a legal point of view, it might necessitate a Governmental Notification to authorize this, it is not to be presumed from this point only that the Silver Trade Dollar is not a standard coin. And we maintain that the object of the change is not merely to sweep away the Mexican Dollar by means of the Silver Trade Dollar, but also—it is apparent, to make the latter a standard, and to have two standards—of gold and silver. The policy of the Government being that—recognizing Silver to be indispensable in Oriental Countries, the standard coin should be decidedly fixed to be really Silver;—yet leaving, however, the Gold nominally so. But actually the silver coin will be the only standard. That paper money is in circulation has arisen from unavoidable circumstances of a temporary nature; but the system is certainly not unchangeable, and we presume that, so soon as the Government finances shall have been restored, in time the paper money will all be changed for coin, and our country will use silver alone. This is the point where we differ from the editor of the *Hōchi*.

Disregarding, however, this difference in our views; as we are of course at one with him as regards getting rid of the Mexican Dollar by means of Silver Trade Dollars, we must exercise our best and utmost efforts to study and explain the means of doing this. Our first effort should be directed to helping the Silver Trade Dollar to gain a footing in the open ports of Japan and China (*i. e.* to make it a standard coin, and to allow its employment in all business transactions and payments of taxes &c. by natives and foreigners). This has now already been done. The second effort to make—which would give a greater power in the same direction to our Dollar, is to prohibit the employment of the Mexican Dollar for payment of Customs' Duties. Originally, the Customs' Duties had to be paid with silver *Ichibus*, but since they were replaced by the Mexican Dollars, at the rate of \$100 for 311 silver *bus*, the loss sustained by the Government has indeed been immense; but as the treaty is in existence, it cannot be helped, and time passed on without anything being done to remedy this. But *ichibus* having gradually been melted, have become so scarce that we do not see one now, whilst the Mexican Dollars which took their place, have gained more and more power, and these are mostly employed now (for payment of Customs' duties.) However, when the Silver Trade Dollars are cheaper than the Mexicans, the former are used. Now if we should decide not to take the Mexican Dollar for Customs' duties, they would finally become coin of no general circulation.

So long, too, as there is no reliable coin in the country, foreign Governments too must unavoidably employ the Mexican Dollars, however unreliable they may be. But our silver dollar is actually 900 grains fine, and 420 grains in weight and indeed is worth about one per cent more in intrinsic value than the Mexican; and further, the Mint which coins them is close at hand. There are, however, some among the foreigners who—because our Mint is not still entrusted to foreign direction, doubt and grumble, suspecting that the coining may not always be done properly, that the fineness may not be kept up, or that the weight may be decreased. But we cannot at all understand why they should not believe so much, and trust in our Mint—*i. e.* in our Government;—*i. e.* in our Country of Japan. For what reason to they rely on the Mexican dollar? What guarantee does the Mexican Government give? We would ask them:—Since our country has been opened to trade with foreign countries, have we ever broken our promises of paying money—either of indemnities, loans or the interest on loans? There has never been any such case. And therefore the bonds of our loans, unlike those of other foreign countries, are always fixed to the London market and maintain a high price. And in our Mint are not a certain number of coins taken out of those coined every day, and tested once a year? And also, are not some of them sent to the Mints of England and America to be tested, and the result notified to the public,

so as to prove their correctness? If these precautions are not to be relied on, what can be relied on? We are therefore of opinion, that the second important step should be taken (i.e. refusing the Mexican Dollar at the Custom house) the power of the Silver Trade Dollar thus extended, and that exorcism, the Mexican Dollar, be so swept away that a trace of it should not be found in the country.

THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN OF PAO.

A TALE FROM THE HISTORY OF CHINA IN THE 8TH CENTURY BEFORE CHRIST.

TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE BY C. ARENDT.

FORMING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Prefatory Remark of the German Translator.

THE "History of the Principalities at the time of the Eastern Chou (Chinese: *Tung-chou-lié-Kuo*), of which the first three chapters are here given in full translation, belongs to that extensive class of works in Chinese literature, which the Chinese themselves call *Ye-shi* i.e. "Savage history." This great class may be divided into

a. History embellished by Romance.

b. Historical romances, that is, imaginative tales with historical backgrounds.

Mr. W. F. Meyers deserves our thanks for an enumeration (somewhat dry; and it seems to me, too condemnatory) of the Chinese works belonging to both these classes which he has given in the Notes and Queries on China and Japan, edited by N. B. Dennys, Hongkong 1867. Vol. I p.p. 24-26, 102-104, 119-121.

The work from which the following translation is taken, like the *San-Kuo-Chih* (History of the three Kingdoms), belongs to class A, while the *Shin-hu-Chuan* may be taken as the leading representative of historical romances (Class B).

We are inclined to assign to the "History of the Principalities at the time of the Eastern Chou" (mentioned very cursorily by Meyers) a very high place in Chinese literature. The occurrences of five and a half centuries (from the 1st half of the 8th to the second half of the 3rd century before Christ) are there presented to us in accurate connection with historical tradition, while the lively tone of the story, and the happy arrangement of the matter, constantly animate the interest of the reader. It is true, however, that tediousness and length are not absent, as for instance in the very first chapter where the unæsthetic episode of the dragon's saliva, is related at considerable length.

The first three chapters of the "History of the Principalities," which form the introduction to the whole work, seem especially suited for translation, because they form by themselves a complete and separate whole.

I shall now leave the author, whose name is unknown, to speak for himself.

CHAPTER I. THE EMPEROR HSUAN.

The Chou dynasty (1) commenced when Wu-Wang conquered the Chou (2), and ascended the throne of the Son of Heaven. Wu-Wang was succeeded by the Emperors Ch'eng and Kong (3), both of whom were excellent rulers who knew how to govern the country according to the desire of the founder of the dynasty. Moreover, the Dukes of Chou, Sha, Pi, Shih-I and others showed themselves skilful advisers of the throne, and most loyally assisted the Emperor to govern. This was a time, when the land had rest from the horrors of war; the arts of peace flourished; the country was rich and the people happy.

During the reign of the Eighth Emperor of the I.

(1) The Chou dynasty reigned from 1134 to 255 before Christ.

(2) Chou was the last Emperor of the Shang or Yin dynasty. Wu-wang, (or the Emperor Wu), the first Chou Emperor, reigned from 1134 to 1115 before Christ.

(3) Ch'eng-Wang 1115-1078 B. Ch. Kong-Wang 1078-1062.

wang (4) dynasty, the central Government began to lose its power; the Chuh-ou (5), became more insolent, and did not present themselves regularly at the audiences. The ninth Emperor, Li-wang (6) was cruel and devoid of principle. He was murdered by the people, and from this occurrence dates the commencement of anarchy in the land. Fortunately the united endeavours of the Dukes of Chou and Shao, succeeded in placing Prince Ching, the Son of Li-wang, on the throne. He is known in history as Hsüan-wang (7). Here again was a man who knew how to conduct the Government with knowledge and skill. Among the able men whom he placed in high offices, we will only mention Fang-shu, Shao-liu; Yin-chi-fu; Shên-po and Chung-shang-fu. The times of the Emperors Wên (8), Wu, Chêng, and Kang seemed to come again, and the tarnished lustre of the house of Chou was restored. The following well known verse refers to this:

"The Government was powerless under the Emperors I and Li; but Hsüan placed rigorous men in office and restored order. If Kung-h'o had not been succeeded by a ruler who renewed the lustre of the Dynasty, the house of Chou could never have held the throne for eight hundred years." (9)

Although, as we have already said, the Emperor Hsüan was a rigorous ruler, yet he did not equal the Emperor Wu, who followed implicitly the precepts of the "Red book," and the maxims which he ordered to be inscribed on doors and windows (10); And although we have said that he restored the splendour of the Empire, yet he could not do it like the Emperors Ch'eng and Kang, in whose time the authority of the Imperial House was so great, that nobles from the most distant countries came with tribute to the court.

In the 39th year of the reign of the Emperor Hsüan the Chiang-Jung (11) rebelled, and the Emperor took the field against them in person. He suffered, however, a severe defeat at Ch'ien-mu, and many soldiers, both horse and foot, remained on the battle field. The Emperor now thought of undertaking a second campaign against the enemy; but, fearing that the number of his force was not sufficient he prepared to take a census of his people at Ta'i-yüan. This Ta'i-yüan—the present district of Ku-yüan-chou, lay quite near to the Jung and Ti (12). The object of a census is to make an exact register of families and the members of families, in order to raise war-taxes, recruit soldiers, and be able to take the field in a force proportioned to the number of the population, and to the amount of grain and straw in the Empire. The Prime Minister, Chung-an-fu, remonstrated with the Emperor on the danger of this measure, but was not listened to. The following verse refers to this incident:

"Why, O Emperor, must thou pollute thy sword in battle against dogs and swine? (13) It is in truth a pity to shoot at birds with pearls (14). The authority of the ruler is gone, and it is impossible to take revenge! Thou numberest the people in vain."

When the numbering of the people at Ta'i-yüan was finished, Hsüan-wang turned on his road home-wards, and

(4) The Emperor I reigned from 884-878 B. Ch.

(5) The Chuh'ou were Kings, Dukes and Chiefs who were the chief among the many principalities into which China was then divided. The word could be best translated by "Feudal or tributary Princes."

(6) Emperor Li reigned from 878-827 B. Ch.

(7) 827-782 B. Ch.

(8) Wên, or Wen-Wang was the father of Wu-Wang the founder of the Chou dynasty.

(9) When Li, the father of Hsüan-wang, was deprived of his throne, and had fled to Chih, the Dukes of Chou and Shao carried on the government. The period of their administration is called in history Kung-h'o, "the harmonious double government."

(10) The "Red Book" (Chinese *tan-shu*) was a kind of mirror for Princes. The Emperor Wu had all the wise maxims which it contained on the art of government written on all the doors, mats, tables, girdles, shoes, boots, plates, washing-basins, winecups and dishes in his palace, so that he should constantly act according to them.

(11) The Chiang-Jung, also called Jung, was a horde of barbarians on the Western-frontier of the China of those days. The 39 year of Hsüan-Wang=789 B. Ch.

(12) Jung. The Barbarians of the West.

Ti. The Barbarians of the North.

(13) "Dogs and Swine." The barbarians.

(14) "Pearls." The weapons of the Imperial Army. "Birds." The barbarians.

as he approached the capital H'ao-ching, (15) he hastened on, and continued his journey day and night. Now, as he entered H'ao-ching, he noticed in the street a crowd of thirty or forty lads who clapped their hands and sang in chorus. Hsüan-wang ordered the carriage to stop, and listened. The words of the song were :

The moon is rising,
The Sun sinks down.
The bows of Yen
And the quivers of Chi
Threaten ruin, alas !
To the House of Ch'ou.

Hsüan-wang was very angry at these words and ordered the coachman to have the boys arrested and brought before him. Meantime, however, the boys grew frightened and ran away in various directions, so that only two, an elder and younger one, could be caught. These knelt down before the Imperial carriage, and Hsüan-wang asked :

"Who composed this song?"

The smaller of the two could not speak a word for terror, but the elder one said :

"The song did not originate in our district. Three days ago a boy dressed in red clothes, came on the market place and brought us those six lines. And since then it has gone the round of the whole town, and all the boys sing it in every street and lane as if by a concerted arrangement."

Hsüan-wang asked :

"Then where is the boy in red clothes now?"

The lad replied :

"After he taught us the song, no one knows where he went to."

The Emperor was silent for some time and then, in a very ungracious manner, allowed the two boys to depart; but he called the chief of the Police, and commanded him to issue a stringent order to the following effect. "If any boy is again found singing this song, not only the offender, but also his father and his elder brothers will suffer the same punishment."

The same evening the Emperor returned to his palace. The following morning, at the early audience, the three privy councillors and all the six ministers placed themselves on the steps of the throne. At the conclusion of the greeting, the Emperor related to the assembled dignitaries a detailed account of the song of the boys on the previous evening, and inquired what it could mean. The Minister of Religion and ceremonies, Shao-h'u, answered :

"Yen is the name of a sort of wild mulberry tree which grows in the mountains and of which bows are made; that is the meaning of the words 'The bows of Yen.' Chi is the name of a plant from which quivers are made and this is the meaning of the words. 'The quivers of Chi.' In my poor opinion, misfortune is impending over the land from bows and arrows."

The Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Chung-shan-fu, then dexterously said :

"Bows and arrows are the instruments of war. Your Majesty has lately numbered the people in Tai-yüan with the object of taking revenge on the hordes of Jung. If in consequence of this, we have an endless war, the ruin of the country will be the necessary result."

The Emperor did not reply to this in words, but he nodded his head affirmatively, and then inquired anew :

"The song was circulated by a boy clothed in red who can this lad be?"

"If," replied the Imperial Astrologer Po-yang-fu, "a word, the origin of which cannot be discovered, is spread abroad through streets and lanes, it is called a prophetic word of the people. Heaven, in order to warn the ruler of men, has now ordered the Yung-h'uo-hsing (16) to change itself into a little boy, in order to convey this prophecy to the crowd of lads. Such prophetic words from the mouths of children may, according to circumstances, foretell the happiness or misfortune of a single creature, or the rise or decay of an Empire. The Yung-h'uo is a star of fire; hence the red colour of the cloth-

(15) H'ao-ching or Kao-ching, the then capital, was in the present Shensi, in the Hsi-an-fu district.

(16) Yung-h'uo-hsing, the name of a star (Hsing=a star) Mars, I believe.

ing. The prophecy of the threatened ruin of the dynasty, is a warning from Heaven to the Emperor."

Hsüan than said :

"Very good ! I will pardon the Chiang-Jung, (17) and will send the warriors at Tai-yüan back to their homes; the bows and arrows stored in my arsenals shall be burned, and the construction of these weapons prohibited throughout the whole Empire. Tell me, astrologer, can the threatened danger be averted in this manner?"

Po-yang-fu answered and said :

"I have enquired of the Heavenly signs, the Horoscope is cast; and it seems that all this points to one occurrence, which is prepared in the palace, and not to any other circumstance. The story of the bows and arrows refers to some misfortune which will be caused by a future Empress. The prophecy says :

"The moon rises

"The sun sinks down.

"The sun represents the ruler of men; the moon belongs to the female element. "The moon rises, the Sun sinks down," means that the female principle gains the mastery, and the male must give way; and it is clear that an Empress will bring misfortune on the land."

Hsüan-wang again spoke :

"As regards my own six seraglios, I have always been able to rely on the virtue of my consort, the Empress Chiang. Among all the ladies of my palace she has always been most circumspect. A misfortune caused by one of my wives is not to be thought of."

To-Yang-Fu replied :

"Although the prophecy says "the Moon rises, the Sun declines," it does not say exactly, that the occurrence must take place at once; moreover, it speaks of a threatened danger, not of one which must inevitably take place. By a strict exercise of virtue the misfortune can not only be averted, but be changed into a blessing. It is not at all necessary to burn the bows and arrows."

When the Emperor heard this, he wavered between doubt and belief; he was irritated, and breaking up the council he arose and returned to the palace. The Empress Chiang met him there, and they sat down together. He then informed her exactly of all that the high dignitaries had said, whereupon the Empress said :

"Something extraordinary has happened in the palace, which I was just going to communicate to you." What was that?" enquired the Emperor. "In the Seraglio" replied Chang H'ou (18), "there is an old maid servant who has lived here since the time of the late prince, and who is more than fifty years of age. Since the reign of the last Emperor she has been in a state of pregnancy, and now, forty years after conception, last night she brought a girl into the world."

The Emperor was much startled at this and enquired where the new-born child was. "I thought it was a child of misfortune" replied the Empress, and therefore I ordered it to be wrapped up in straw matting, and to be thrown into the river Ching-Shiu (19), twenty li away from here."

The Emperor had the old maid servant brought before him immediately, and questioned her about her pregnancy. She knelt down and spoke as follows :

"I have heard it said that in the last year of the reign of the Emperor Hsia-Chieh (20), two men of divine origin from Tao-cheng changed into two dragons, and took up their abode in the court of the Imperial city. Saliva flowed from their mouths. Suddenly they spoke like human beings, and said to the Emperor Chieh : "We are two princes of Pao-ch'eng (12). The Emperor feared them much and desired to have them killed. He first ordered the Imperial Astrologer to prognosticate the result, and as this did not turn out favourably, he thought of hunting them away. The inquiries of the Astrologer were again unfavourable, and the latter said to the Emperor : "The descent to earth

(17) See notes 11 and 12.

(18) H'ou means Empress.

(19) The river "Ching-shiu" i.e. clearwater-river.

(20) Hsia-Chieh, i.e. Chieh, the last Emperor of the Hsia dynasty, reigned 1818-1767 B. C.

(21) Pao-ch'eng, i.e. the town of Pao.

(22) The Commentator Tsai-yuan-ying-fang, makes the following brief comment on this interpretation of the Astrologer : "Nonsense."

of men of divine origin betokens fortune. (22). Your Majesty should catch some of the divine saliva of the dragons and preserve it; for the saliva is the essence of their lives and the preservation of it must bring us luck (23). The Emperor then ordered the astrologer to prognosticate the result of this, and it was found to be especially favourable (24). Consequently a silk cloth was placed before the dragons, and an offering was made to them. A golden plate was brought into which their saliva was put, and the plate was then locked up in a red box. A strong wind suddenly rose, heavy rain fell, and the two dragons fled from thence . . . But the box was placed in the Imperial treasury.

"Six hundred and forty years and twenty-eight rulers passed away under the Yin dynasty (25); and it is nearly three hundred years since the noble house of Chou ascended the throne. During the whole of this time the box was never opened. In the last year of the reign of your Majesty's father, a bright light streamed from it. The overseer of the treasury informed the late Emperor of this circumstance, and the latter enquired what the box contained. The overseer produced the old books and records and in them was found the whole history of the dragon's saliva. The Emperor ordered the box to be opened."

One of the chamberlains opened the golden chests, took out the plate of gold, and handed it to the Emperor; the latter however, carelessly let it fall to the ground, and the saliva which it contained flowed out on the floor, and was immediately transformed into a small turtle which ran round on the floor. The chamberlain tried to catch it, but it ran into the Emperor's closet, and there disappeared, leaving no traces. I was then just twelve years of age and I had no sooner stepped accidentally on the place where the turtle had run round, and where the marks of his feet still remained, than I felt an extraordinary elevation of spirits; and from that moment my body began to increase in size as if I were with child. The late Emperor was angry that I, who had no husband, should be pregnant and shut me up in a solitary chamber. That is now forty years ago; and last night the pains of childbirth coming on, I was delivered of a girl; the servants of the seraglio did not dare to conceal the affair, but told the Sublime Mother. (26) She said that it was quite impossible to allow a child begotten in such a manner to remain here, and ordered the servants to throw it into the river. I know well such a wretch as I, deserves death ten thousand times.

"But that is all a story of previous dynasties," cried the Emperor, "and what have you to do with it?" He sent the old woman away with harsh words, and ordered the servants to go to the river "Clearwater" and see what had become of the child. They returned soon afterwards and informed him that it had floated away some time previously.

Hsuan-wang did not doubt the correctness of this report: but the following morning at early audience he called the Imperial Astrologer Po-yang-fu to him, and having told him the story of the dragon's saliva, he said: "The child has probably met its death in the water, but please consult your mystical symbols, and inform me whether the spell is broken."

Po-yang-fu immediately consulted the fates, and told the king the result. The prophecy was as follows:

Tears and Laughter!
Laughter and Tears!
A lamb devoured by ghouls!
A horse pursued by dogs!
Beware, Beware
Of the Quivers of Chi! (27)

(23) "The Astrologer talks the most frightful nonsense; I could laugh at it, only that I can't help being vexed at it," says the Commentator at this place.

(24) "That the prognostication was favourable this time, was of course, only a lie of the Astrologer," remarks the Commentator.

(25) The Hsia dynasty, of which Chieh was the last Emperor, was followed by the Yin or Shang dynasty, and this by the Chou dynasty.

(26) "The Sublime mother" (Niang-niang) i.e. the Empress.

(27) The commentator Tsai is very pleased with this prophecy of Po-yang-fu. He says "This prophecy is excellent. The Imperial Astrologer need not be ashamed of it."

It may be remarked *passim* that the tradition of the dragon's saliva is contained in the earliest historical works.

This was quite incomprehensible to the Emperor; but Po-yang-fu said:

"According to the twelve Wen, the lamb is Wei, the horse Wu. Tears and laughter are the marks of sorrow and gladness. The fulfillment must occur in a Wu and a Wei year (28). My opinion is that the enchantment, although turned away from the palace, is not yet destroyed."

The Emperor was much relieved at hearing this and immediately issued an order that both within and without the town a search should be made from house to house for the child; and that if any one brought it dead or alive, he should receive a reward of two hundred pieces of silk. But if any one took it in and nourished it, the first who gave information thereof, was to receive a similar reward, while the offender and his whole family would be executed. The Chief Councillor of state, Ta-po, was ordered to see to the execution of this command. Furthermore as the prophecy mentioned the "bows of Yen" and "the quivers of Chi," the Vice Councillor of State Tso-ju received instructions, with the assistance of the police, to take care that no bows made from the wood of the wild mulberry tree, or no quivers made from the Chi should be offered for sale in the markets or shops; offences against this command were also to be visited with death.

The police did not dare to show the slightest negligence and a number of officials were sent out to make the order known, and to arrest any offenders against it. The inhabitants of the town naturally did not venture to act contrary to the order; but in the interior it was not yet generally known. The following day as the search was going on, lo! there came a woman with quivers made from the Chi plant in her arms, followed immediately by a man who carried more than ten bows on his back. They were a married couple who lived far away in the interior and they were going to market to sell their wares. But just as they reached the gate of the town, they ran directly into the arms of the police and were stopped. One of the latter first seized the woman; and her husband when he saw that something was wrong, threw down his bows of mulberry wood, and fled from the place. The police put the woman in fetters and having collected the quivers and bows, brought them to the Councillor of State. Tso-ju reflected that the objects which had been seized corresponded exactly with the words of the song; moreover the Imperial Astrologer had said that misfortune would be caused by a woman; that woman is now found and therefore the command of the Emperor may now be regarded as cancelled. He then made a report to the Emperor in which he made no mention of the man, saying only that a woman had sold the forbidden articles and according to the law deserved

(28) It is well known that the Chinese have a cycle of sixty years. Each of these sixty years has a special name, which is formed by placing together one of the so called "Heavenly boughs" with one of the "Earthly branches." There are ten of the former and twelve of the latter.

The ten Heavenly boughs are
chia, i, ping, ting, mao, chi, keng, hsin, jen, kuei.

The twelve Earthly branches.

(or as they are here called "the 12 Wen,") are:

tsze, chou, yin, mao, ch'en, sze, wu, wei, shen, yu, hsi, h'ai.

The ten boughs are then placed side by side in a row with the branches, and when either is finished, it is commenced over again, thus:

CHIA-tsze, i-ch'on &c. &c. CHIA-hsi-i-h'ai ping-TSZE &c. CHIA-shen &c.

Hence the first heavenly bough *Chia* occurs every eleventh, and the first earthly branch *tsze* every thirteenth year; the sixty-first year is again a *Chia-tsze* year and the new cycle begins.

Moreover each of the twelve earth branches (or Wen) belongs to a certain animal, thus:

Tsze	...	...	...	to the Rat
Ch'ou	...	...	...	Ox
Yin	...	...	...	Tiger
Mao	...	...	...	Hare
Ch'en	...	...	...	Dragon
Sze	...	...	...	Serpent
Wu	...	...	...	Horse
Wei	...	...	...	Lamb
Shen	...	...	...	Monkey
Yu	...	...	...	Hen
Hsi	...	...	...	Dog
H'ai	...	...	...	Boar

Now as the prophecy mentions the lamb and the horse, it means that misfortune will occur in years in which the earthly branches *Wu* and *Wei* occur.

death. Hsüan-wang ordered her execution, and the burning of the bows and quivers in the public market place as a warning to the people. A poem of a subsequent period refers to this:

"Instead of averting the punishment of Heaven by governing virtuously, thou hast foolishly accepted the letter of the popular song, and hast killed a poor woman. Tell me not of the many rigorous Councillors of the Emperor Hsüan. Why was there no true servant at this exact time to warn his ruler."

But we must not forget the man who sold the bows of mulberry wood. After he had fled, as already related, he reflected on the reasons why the officials desired to arrest himself and his wife; and determined first of all to discover the fate of his wife. Night brought him to the outside of his own village; and on the following morning he heard the people telling each other that on the previous day, a woman who sold bows of mulberry wood and quivers of *Chi*, at the Northern Gate, against the decree, was arrested and immediately executed. He knew then that his wife was no longer alive, and when he came to a still, lonely spot he dropped tears of sorrow, but rejoiced at the same time that he himself had escaped death. He went on anywhere that chance would lead him for about ten *li* or more, and came to the banks of the river "Clearwater." Here he saw a large flight of birds in the distance which flew about shrieking. As he approached them, behold! a bundle wrapped in matting floated on the surface of the water, which the birds pulled with their beaks, screaming all the time, and at last drew it quite near to the bank. The man could not withhold an exclamation of astonishment. He drove away the birds, and drew the dripping bundle out of the water, and took it to a high part of the bank which was overgrown with grass. He opened it and looked inside; moaning and crying fell upon his ears, and lo! there was a little girl inside. The man said to himself. "Who can have thrown the child into the river? But as the birds drew it through the water with their beaks, it is quite clear that she is no ordinary child. I will take her with me and bring her up; when she is once grown we shall see!" He took off his mantle and wrapping the child in it, betook himself after some reflection, as to where he could fly, to Pao-chêng (29) where he had some good friends. But "the old man with the beard" (30) has sung of the wonderful delivery of this child in a special poem in which he says:

"The child was forty years in her mother's womb and three days in the water. She lived and grew and the evil spell extended itself farther. The mysterious power of fate is not to be averted by the wisdom of Princes."

After the execution of the woman who sold the bows and arrows the Emperor Hsüan believed that the children's prophecy was already fulfilled. He therefore felt his mind completely at ease, and nothing more was said of campaigns against the Jung.

I have nothing to relate of the following year and we now pass on to the 43rd year of the Emperor (i.e. 785 B.C.)

It was the time when the "great sacrifice" should be made in the Ancestors' temple. The Emperor passed the previous night in the Sacristy (31). The water clock pointed to the second watch (32). Not a sound disturbed the deep stillness. Suddenly he saw a beautiful woman approaching from the West, and entering the temple door. The Emperor was annoyed that she dared to disturb his devotional exercises, and addressed her in very harsh terms. He called loudly for his attendants to come in, and seize the woman, but no one appeared to answer his call. The woman, without exhibiting the slightest sign of fear, went directly into the Ancestors' temple, laughed loudly three times, then wept in the same way three times, and taking down the memorial tablets of the dead Emperors (33)

(29) He went to Pao-chêng the very town from which came the divine beings who had been changed into Dragons.

(30) The poet Su-tung-pô who lived under the Sung dynasty was known by this name.

(31) In Chinese "In-chai-kung," that is in those portions of the temple which were set apart for fasts and other ascetic exercises.

(32) That is between 10 and 12 o'clock at night.

(33) These are long wooden tablets with the name of the deceased, which are the chief objects of veneration in all Chinese Ancestral Temples.

from their places, and wrapping them in a bundle, went away in an easterly direction. The Emperor arose to follow her, and then he woke suddenly. It was all only a dream.

Exceedingly troubled in mind, the Emperor went into the temple and performed the ceremonies. After the nine-fold contribution of wine was completed, he returned to the Sacristy, changed his dress, and sent servants out to call the Imperial Astrologer Po-yang-fu to a private audience. To the latter he related his whole dream, whereupon Po-yang-fu said:

"Has Your Majesty then forgotten the words of the children's song which was circulated three years ago? I said then already, that the words referred to misfortune through a woman, and the spell is not yet broken. In my prophecy laughter and tears were also mentioned. Your Majesty's dream coincides only too closely with all these."

"But is not the death of the woman who was then killed sufficient," cried Hsüan Wang, "to make the prophecy relative to the bows of Yen and the quivers of Chi of no effect?"

"The ways of Providence," said To-yang-fu, "are mysterious; it is only when the time is come that man can recognise and understand them. What has the death of a poor woman from the country to do with the dispensations of fate?"

The Emperor fell into deep thought and was silent. Suddenly he remembered that three years ago he had given an order to the Chief Councillor of State, Tu-po, to discover with the help of the police the infant which had been thrown into the water.

After the conclusion of the sacrificial meal, the Emperor returned to his palace, and when all the dignitaries appeared to express their thanks for his hospitality (34), he called Tu-po and inquired how it was that no information had yet been brought to him, respecting the infant which had been thrown in the water.

Tu-po answered:

"My search for the child led at that time to no result, and after the woman was executed and the words of the children's song were fulfilled, I believed that I might discontinue the search, all the more that I feared it would be without result, and that persistence in it might cause disquietude in the country."

"In that case," said the Emperor in great anger, you should, at least, have given me information as to the proceedings which you took. That you have not done so is a contempt of my express instructions and an unheard-of disobedience. I cannot have such a faithless servant in my palace."

He immediately ordered the palace officials to lead Tu-po out, and execute him before the gate of the palace as a public warning. The assembled dignitaries were horror-stricken; (35) and a person stepped forward from the crowd, held Tu-po firmly and called out: Impossible! Impossible!

Hsüan-wang looked at this individual, and lo! it was none other than the Vice-Councillor of state, Tso-ju. This Tso-ju was a friend of Tu-po's and owed his high office at Court to the recommendation of the latter.

Tso-ju immediately threw himself on the earth, before the Emperor, and said:

"I have heard it said that in the time of the Emperor Yao, (36) an inundation which lasted for nine years occurred, but the Imperial throne did not totter. I have also heard that in the time of the Emperor Tang there was a drought which lasted for seven years, but the prince's authority suffered nought thereby. What is the meaning then of all this discussion about the dispensations of fate? What great thing can occur by means of this child? If you slay Tu-po, the news of the apparition will only be spread abroad throughout the land. Even the barbarians on the boundaries of the Empire, when they hear of it, will despise and scorn us. I implore you to pardon him!"

(34) After the sacrifice the Emperor divides the slain animal with his high officers.

(35) In Chinese "Their faces with fear became the colour of clay."

(36) Is said to have governed 2356-2258 B. C.

"Do you dare," cried the Emperor, "to defy my order for the sake of your friend. He is more to you than your Sovereign!"

"If the Sovereign was right, and my friend wrong" said Tso-ju, "it would be my duty to leave my friend. But when the friend is right, and the Sovereign wrong it is my duty to brave the latter and protect my friend. Tu-po is innocent; and if you kill him, the whole nation will despise you as an unwise ruler. And if I did not bid you stay your hand, the world would call me a bad servant of my lord. If the Emperor however, is determined to slay Tu-po, I beg that I may be permitted to die with him!"

But the Emperor's anger only increased still more, and he said: It is no more for me to kill Tu-po than to throw a dry blade of grass into the flame. The matter is not worth tiring one's lips and tongue in talking about it."

"Kill him at once," said the Emperor in conclusion. The officers thrust Tu-po out of the palace gates and cut off his head. But Tso-ju went home cut his throat and died. He is celebrated by the "Old man with the Beard," (37) in the following lines.

"Tso-ju was a perfect man
He fearlessly admonished the Emperor.
Because his friend was right, he protected him,
Because the Emperor was wrong, he defied him.
He stood faithfully by the side of his colleague,
And went to death for his friend.
His name is great in history:
A model of true friendship.

Tu-po's son, Hsi-sha, fled to the land of Tsin, where he afterwards became Minister of Justice (38), his descendants changed their family name, and some of them took that of Shih, some Fan, because estates in Fan were assigned for their maintenance. In subsequent times a temple was erected in Tu-ling as a memorial of Tu-po, the loyal servant of the crown. This temple, which still exists, received the name of Tuchu or Yu-Chiang-Chün-Miao.

But let us return to our story. When the Emperor Hsüan heard the following day of the suicide of Tso-ju, he regretted the execution of Tu-po, and returned in an ill-humour to his apartments. He could not close his eyes the next night. From that time he suffered from absence of mind and often wandered in his talk. He became exceedingly forgetful. The audiences had to be stopped frequently. On account of this illness, the Empress abstained from admonishing him.

In the first month of the autumn of the 46th year of his reign (782 B. C.) the Emperor felt somewhat better, and determined to prepare a great hunt in commemoration of his recovery. The necessary orders were given; the Minister of Minister Works directed the Imperial equipages, &c., the Public of War called up the warriors in carriages and on foot, and the Imperial Astrologer chose a lucky day. On the day fixed, the Emperor entered his carriage which was drawn by six horses. Yinchifu rode on the right side, Shaoh'u on the left. Banners and standards were carried in pairs; armour and weapons made a thick wood. Thus they went in shining masses out into the eastern plains.

The country on the eastern side of the town was flat and but thinly inhabited. The Emperors had held their hunts there from the most ancient times. Hsüan who had not come there for years, felt a new life within him, and ordered the camp to be set up. The soldiers were informed that:

- 1.—They must not tread down the standing corn;
- 2.—Nor set fire to the trees;
- 3.—In no way injure the farmers houses;
- 4.—The captured game must all be brought and laid before the Emperor; who would then distribute the rewards. Whoever kept his booty to himself, would be severely punished.

When these orders of the day were issued, zeal filled all hearts, and every one desired to distinguish himself. The manoeuvres were gone through with the greatest exactness; the charioteers showed their utmost skill; right and left, before and behind, the archers showed themselves beyond all praise in the exercise of their art; even the falcons and dogs seemed to be animated by the same zeal as the men; hares and foxes ran terrified among each other; not a shot missed; the slain game wallowed in their own

blood, and the chase was most brilliant. Hsüan-wang was in a most cheerful humour.

Meantime the sun approached its setting, and the chase was declared at an end. The soldiers tied the captured animals and birds together, and singing gay songs, set off on their homeward road.

They had gone about three or four li, when suddenly a feeling of giddiness came over the Emperor in his equipage; things glittered before his eyes, and he saw in the distance a small open carriage coming straight towards him. Two men with bows of a red colour on their backs, and red arrows in their hands, stood on it. They greeted the Emperor and said: "How has Your Majesty been since our separation?" When he looked carefully at them, the Emperor recognized in the new comers the Councillor of State Tu-po and the Vice-Councillor of State Tso-ju. His fright was great; but while he was rubbing his eyes, both men and carriage had disappeared.

The Emperor enquired from his attendants whether they had noticed any thing, but they all said that they had seen nothing whatever.

While he was pondering over this occurrence, Tu-po and Tso-ju appeared anew in their carriage, following closely on the Imperial equipage. Hsüan-wang in despair cried out. "Cursed spirits! Leave my path!" and drew his sword, T'ai-O (39) from its sheath and threw it into the empty air. Then he heard Tu-po and Tso-ju call out with a loud voice: "Useless driveller! Wretched prince, who slaughtered his innocent and most faithful servants! Thine hour is come! Here we shall revenge ourselves! Thou shalt atone for thy bloody deed with thy life!" And before the sound of the words was finished, they drew the red bow, laid the red arrow in it, and aimed at Hsüan-wang's heart. The latter fell back into his carriage with a loud shriek. The dukes of Yin and Shao were benumbed with fear. They gave him a little ginger tea in order to restore him to life. But when he recovered from his faint, he called out constantly: "I have a pain at my heart!" They returned quickly to the town and took the Emperor to the palace. In the confusion the soldiers did not get their rewards, and separated hastily. They returned as sadly now, as they had been joyful in the morning. The "Old man with the Beard" says on this subject in one of his songs:

"They came with a red bow and a red arrow to look on like gods; in the middle of the throng they went about as if soaring. The Emperor also, who had shed innocent blood, could not escape retribution—much less so than an ordinary man of the people."

And now dear reader, if you wish to know what happened afterwards to the Emperor Hsüan, you will find it in the next chapter.

(To be continued in our next.)

EXTRACT.

ENGLISH POLICY AND ENGLISH STRENGTH.

(From 'The Times'.)

The apprehensions of a collision between this country and Russia have naturally drawn some attention to the comparative resources of the two Powers. What forces could they bring to bear at once on decisive points? What strength could they gradually develop as war went on? The answer has also been a very obvious one—that England, happily, has a larger force immediately disposable than she is sometimes credited with, and that in a long contest she could develop a power so great that in comparison Russia cannot be considered a first-rate Power at all, but only one of the third or fourth, if even of so high a rank. The broad facts are that although Russia in Europe has double the population of the United Kingdom, yet our numbers are so great as to supply an inexhaustible recruiting ground, while the labour of the population is so efficient that we can support in idleness, or in such a special enterprise as that of war, much larger numbers than it is possible for Russia to support; that the quality of our people, man for man, is better; that apart from our home strength England has a vast colonial empire with a population of 250,000,000, more or less available in a contest, while Russia has but a scattered and empty territory in Asia, the population being actually about 14 millions only, while the administration of the territory is a burden upon the Russian centre; that while the

(37) See note 30.

(38) Tsin, in the present Shansi.

(39) The name of the sword.

annual revenue of the United Kingdom (79 millions) somewhat exceeds that of the Russian Empire (about 70 millions only), our revenue is easily raised and from a few sources of taxation and could easily be doubled or trebled and more, but that of Russia is raised with difficulty and it is a question whether a few millions more could be added to it by any severity of taxation. When it is considered, in addition to this, that Russia is assailable at several points by England, and so her resources can be seized and her power crushed, yet England is practically invulnerable by Russia, the inference is plain that in reality the two Powers are not on the same level—that a war which might destroy Russia as a Power would be for England a war “with limited liability” only, as the Crimean War itself was. It has been easy also to point out that in all particulars, both since the beginning of the century and since the Crimean War, the changes in population and resources have all been to the advantage of England. We have now nearly half the population of Russia, instead of one-third or one-fourth as at the beginning of the century; our mercantile and war navies preponderate as they never did before, Russia, by comparison, having neither mercantile nor war navy to speak of; our manufactures have multiplied, while Russia remains a country of backward agriculture. Much of our Indian Empire and a great part of our English-speaking colonies have been added to our dominion during the present century, while Russia has had the doubtful advantage of annexing Eastern Siberia, Central Asia, Poland, and other burdensome possessions. In no one respect has Russia advanced more rapidly, unless it be lately in the cultivation of a land army after the German system, which makes her more formidable at first to her immediate neighbours on land, but not to a Power like England, whose centre she cannot assail. All these are points of a comparison which can be easily made, but from which we fear the wrong conclusion is sometimes drawn. There is a sort of angry feeling that English strength is not appreciated abroad; that we must display it in order to be feared; that Russia in particular has set us at defiance, and should be taught reason, or we shall lose our prestige in the world. The conclusion should rather be that our power is so great and manifest that we may abstain from mere display; that we can afford to suffer some loss of prestige, or some appearance of its loss, rather than incur the certain loss of a war, however successful it may be, if the war is otherwise without sufficient reason; that as the foremost Power of the world, we have to set an example of forbearance and love of peace which will restrain the growth of the war spirit throughout the world and give time for the development of influences by which militarism everywhere, it may be hoped, will become discredited and will decay. If anything could reconcile us to this conclusion, it should be the spectacle of our national progress during the last half century—a spectacle of rapid internal development and growth in civilization such as no other people or nation has ever before displayed. If we have grown and prospered by this forbearance, we should not lightly change our policy, but watch and wait, if possible, to see what will really come of the changes and tumults of the hour.

An article in a recent number of the *Fortnightly Review*, by Mr. T. H. Farrer, the Secretary of the Board of Trade, on “The Strength of England,” presents almost all the materials for making such a survey of our past progress, while touching on some points of contrast between our progress and that of other nations, especially of Russia, which are most instructive. The general drift is that in population, wealth, morality, political and social content, religion, the progress from the time of the Regency to the present time has made England a new world. To begin with, nothing is more remarkable than the mere increase of population—itself a sign of prosperity, so long as there is no falling back in the scale of living, for the nation could not grow without resources to maintain the increasing numbers. The population of Great Britain has more than doubled during the last 60 years. In 1810 we were about 12,000,000 only; now our numbers are 28,900,000. Putting Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, and Russia in Europe together, our 12 millions at the end of the great war were less than 10 per cent. of the population of these countries together; now our 28 millions exceed 13 per cent. of the aggregate. The exact change which has occurred is usually concealed in these comparisons by dealing with the totals for the United Kingdom. We bring into the account Ireland with its five millions of people, who were really a drawback to and not an addition to our national strength sixty years ago, and as Ireland has not increased in numbers since that time the real growth of Great Britain, and especially of England, is concealed. The change in our position is most striking relatively to France. France in 1810 had double the population of Great Britain and more; now she is only one third larger, if so much, and the difference is diminishing day by day. Our change as regards Russia is that in 1810 or thereabouts

Great Britain had only about a fourth of the population of Russia in Europe, now she has between a third and a half. By the mere growth of numbers, assuming only an equal growth in resources, we have thus altered the “balance of power” in our favour.

But not only have we increased in numbers, we have progressed in every particular which constitutes the welfare of a people in a wonderful way. Take the most general figures as to the increase of wealth. While the population, as we have seen, has rather more than doubled since the beginning of the century, the aggregate income has rather more than quadrupled. The assessments to the Income-tax in Great Britain in 1815 were about £130,000,000 annually, the assessments then reaching a lower stratum than they now do; but in 1875 these assessments were £536,000,000, or quite four times what they were 60 years ago. It may be said, of course, that the Income-tax is no fair representation of the growth of wealth, but the reply is that whether we take the legacy duty or any other test, the result is still the same. The capital annually subject to legacy duty about 1815 was between 25 and 30 millions sterling; it is now in Great Britain alone about £100,000,000 sterling. The estimates of national capital show like progress. The national estate could be valued at little over 2,000 millions 60 years ago. According to Mr. Giffen's estimate in a paper lately read by him at the Statistical Society, the value of the capital possessed by the people of the United Kingdom is 8,500 millions, and this estimate is pronounced by the best statistical authority to be probably under and not over the mark.

In the essentials of numbers and wealth, therefore, England has marvellously changed for the better since the days of the great Napoleonic wars. At the very least, wealth having doubled twice as fast as the people, we have to add to the doubling of our strength by numbers the additional power we have obtained by the greater intelligence of the people and the greater effectiveness of our industry in proportion to the numbers engaged. The addition is not merely in proportion to the wealth added; the *gross* amount added is, in fact, an addition to our surplus resources. Say the people of Great Britain in 1815, with a gross income of nearly £300,000,000, or £25 per head, could spare £100,000,000, or one-third of that gross income for the uses of the State, whether in taxation or in loans, it is quite clear that double the numbers with a gross income of £50 per head could spare not only twice 100 millions for the uses of the State, but a very much larger sum. If they kept only for their own private expenditure what they kept in 1815, the sum they could spare for the State would be more nearly six hundred millions. Of course the rise in the scale of living makes it impossible that this last sum could be spared, but the difference between one hundred millions and six hundred millions shows what a vast margin there must be for the Government of England to draw upon if we are to make anything like the efforts which the nation made at the beginning of the century. It will be thought, perhaps, judging by the talk which is often heard about increasing expenditure, that the nation is using up its power in proportionate extravagance, but nothing could be farther from the truth. We have not even increased taxation and expenditure in proportion to the growth of our numbers. We have hardly increased our taxation and expenditure at all. In 1826, 10 years after the great wars; although taxes had been reduced in the interval, the amount of taxation raised in the United Kingdom was still £55,325,000; in 1851, just before the Crimean War, the amount was £54,485,000; now, the amount is £68,514,000. Instead of doubling, as it might have done, had it increased proportionally to our numbers, or quadrupling, as it might have done, had it increased proportionally to our wealth, the amount levied in taxation has only been added to by one-fourth part as compared with what it was half a century ago. Per head, in spite of our increase of wealth, it is only 41s. 5d. now, against 49s. 5d. in 1826. There is thus a wide margin for our Chancellors of the Exchequer, even if they should not seek to go beyond raising the sum of 200 millions, which might even now be raised, merely keeping the proportions to numbers which existed 60 years ago and making no allowance whatever for the intermediate increase of wealth. So far therefore, from indulging in national extravagance as our wealth has increased, we have kept far within bounds, and there is a huge margin to come and go upon before we even begin to lay upon shoulders more able to bear them burdens like those which were borne 60 years ago. Curiously enough, England stands alone among European States in this diminution of national burdens. The taxation of France in the same period has increased from 20s. 1d. to 43s. 7d. per head, and in Prussia, Belgium, Russia, and Holland there has equally been an increase per head. What is the “potential taxation of England?” may be still more directly shown. Mr. Farrer says:—

“There is scarcely an item in the present list of British taxes which might not be indefinitely raised, except, perhaps, the tax on

spirits and tobacco. An addition of a penny to the Income-tax produces £1,800,000 and that tax, now at 3d., was at 16d. during the Crimean war, and at 10d. so late as 1860. The results of recent reductions of taxation are as follows:—Between 1840 and 1852—i. e., in the free-trade period preceding the Crimean War—the net reduction of taxation was £6,286,000. During the Crimean War period of 1853 to 1858, there was practically no permanent increase of taxation, as the war taxes had been got rid of by 1858, and there was a net reduction of £730,000. Between 1863 and the present time—i. e., during the free trade period subsequent to the Crimean War—the net reduction has been £25,010,000. The total net reduction of taxation since 1840 is £32,026,000 per annum. In the same period the net revenue from taxes remaining unrepealed has increased from £51,082,000 in 1841 to £68,514,000 in 1877. Adding to the latter sum the reduced or repealed taxes, we have, supposing the repealed taxes to be now reimposed, a total of potentially increased revenue from taxation amounting to £100,540,000, as compared with £51,082,000 in 1841, without allowing anything for increased productiveness in the repealed taxes."

Everything thus combines to show the magnitude of the country, as well as of the national borrowing power, if any necessity to call on them should arise:

After these general figures it is perhaps unnecessary to go into detail, but they are fully confirmed by the totals of our trade and shipping. The exports of British and Irish produce which were £48,000,000 in 1810, are now £200,000,000, an increase of more than four times, while the increase is even greater if we reckon from 1820 or 1830. Whatever falling off there may have been lately therefore from a high level previously attained, there is certainly a wonderful progress if we look back over a long period. The increase of imports has been at least as remarkable, if not more remarkable. Our internal trade, again, has made as striking progress. In the chief textile manufactures of the United Kingdom—cotton, woollen, worsted, silk, flax, and jute—the number of factories in 1835 was 3,792, and number of persons employed 381,000, and in 1874 the number of factories had grown to 6,524, and number of persons employed to 969,000. In 40 years, therefore, without reckoning at all the new kinds of textile manufacturing constantly being introduced, there has been this remarkable growth in our chief textile trades. The work, as Mr. Farrer points out, has also become much more efficient in proportion to the numbers employed. The quantity of raw cotton consumed was 116 million pounds in 1817, 333 millions in 1835, 657 millions in 1849, and 1,416 millions in 1871. The quantity of wool consumed was 103 millions of pounds in 1800, 210 millions in 1849, and 392 millions in 1876. The manufacturing, we believe, has also grown more elaborate in proportion to the raw material used, so that the mere increase in the raw material does not show the whole increase in business done. In the mineral production of the United Kingdom—that is, in coal and iron, which are by far the most important of our mineral products—there has been even more marvellous progress. In the first 20 years of the century the production of coal was estimated at 11 million tons, and of pig-iron (1823) 442,000 tons. But in 1875 the production of coal was 131,867,000 tons, or 12 times what it had been, and of pig-iron 6,365,000 tons, or fifteen times what it had been. The progress of railway traffic is equally striking. Since 1849, when the country began to have a tolerably complete system, the increase of receipts has been from £11,806,000 to £59,917,000, and the increase of goods conveyed between 1860 and 1875, for which period the figures are given by Mr. Farrer, has been from 89,858,090 to 205,965,000 tons. There is little wonder that with such a trade the increase of wealth in the United Kingdom reaches the bewildering totals which have been stated. The facts as to our merchant shipping are a fitting climax to this wonderful record. In 1820 the merchant navy of the United Kingdom amounted to 2,412,000 tons; in 1876, to 6,197,000 tons—the tonnage of the latter year, as it consisted largely of steamers which hardly existed in 1820, being far more valuable and efficient. In steam tonnage alone the increase in the United Kingdom has been from 87,000 in 1840, to 2,002,000 in 1876, our steam navy, as Mr. Farrer states, being now "twice as large as all the other ocean-going steam merchant navies of the world."

The reflection may occur to some that it is not enough to prove an increase of wealth and numbers to show the progress of the nation—that the question of the distribution of wealth remains. Are the people, it may be asked, happier, better, and stronger, comparing the average man of the present time with his predecessor half a century ago? Happily on this head the evidence is clear and unmistakable. As is almost notorious, notwithstanding all the increase of wealth which has occurred, the price of wheat, the staple food of the masses, has been much lower during the last 30 years than before the free-trade period. The consumption has also increased. Thirty years ago, according to Mr. Caird, the consumption of wheat per head was about 5 1-10th bushels, or 311lb.; in 1868 it had increased to 5 3-10th bushels, or 335lb.; it is now

341lb. Our sources of supply are more largely foreign than they were, but we are here only concerned with the fact of consumption itself. It would be, perhaps, impossible to show the facts by figures, but there is undoubtedly also a larger consumption of meat by the masses than there formerly was. Thus as regards the necessities of life the people, man for man, are better nourished than they were, presumably therefore of better physical quality and greatly stronger in the mass if any call were made on them. That the growing wealth of the last half century has also been distributed among the masses is further shown by the increasing consumption of certain articles of luxury. Not to speak of spirits, beer, and wine, where the increase of consumption is of doubtful advantage, we find the consumption of tea to have increased from 1-46lb per head in 1835 to 4-44lb per head in 1875; and of sugar from 17-19lb per head to 62-85lb per head. This increase is partly due to the lowering of duties, but the lowering of duties has only been one mode among others of increasing the national wealth, and the expenditure per head on these articles, owing to the quantities being so much greater, is still larger than it was. These are not the only signs of improvement in the character of the people. We have to add such a fact as the increase of savings-bank deposits from 11s. 4d. per head of the population in 1830, and 21s. per head in 1850, to 42s. 6d. per head in 1876. The number of paupers and cost of pauperism have also greatly declined. Between 1813 and 1830 the number of paupers in England alone must have been 1,500,000 or upwards (the numbers as late as 1841 being 1,250,000), while the cost of poor relief ranged from 6½ to 8½ millions, being equal to from 10s. to 15s. per head of the population. In 1876 the number of paupers, notwithstanding the increase of the general population in the interval, was only 752,000, and the cost of poor relief, notwithstanding greater humanity in the administration, was little over seven millions, or 6s. 1d. per head of the population. The "sore" of pauperism is thus infinitely less formidable and threatening than it was half a century ago. It is the same with crime. The commitments for trial in England for serious crime were 13,932 in 1817; 27,760 in 1811; 27,960 in 1851; but in 1876, only 16,078. The population has been steadily increasing, but serious crime is little more now than in the early part of the century, and much less—almost one-half less—than in 1841 and 1851. Criminal statistics are difficult to use on account of changes in the denominations of crime, forms of procedure, and the vigilance of the police; but with all qualifications of these figures they still prove a diminished proportion of crime in the population. The diminution is also greatest in the class of offences against property. There are no direct education statistics in the paper before us, but the development of trade and industry indicates increased intelligence, while the facts as to the increasing outlay for many years on education are too notorious for controversy. Altogether, it is beyond question that in physical and moral well-being the people of England, man for man, are much better than they were half a century ago; they are more in numbers, and the units on the average are not only richer, but physically and morally superior to what they were.

All this material and moral progress has also been coincident with an advance in political and social content, which we are sometimes apt to forget amid the din of contests between "labour and capital," but which forces itself upon every reader of the modern history of England. From 1800 to 1850 the history is full of political and Trades Union riots, suspensions of *habeas corpus*, breaking of machinery by infuriated workmen, stack-burning, and other social and industrial calamities. Since 1850 we have hardly known what a political riot is, and strikes and other contests between capital and labour are but seldom marked with violence and crime. All the while our laws against crime and political offences have become milder in themselves and in their application. The tone of feeling and opinion in all these matters is so different from what it was that we can hardly imagine now the conditions of 40 or 50 years since, when social distress, crime, and political agitation abounded. Sir James Mackintosh remarked, with reference to the change of opinion about crime alone, that he could almost think he had lived in two different countries and conversed with people who spoke two different languages. The remark might be much more general. The moral and social atmosphere of the present time differs so greatly, and differs so greatly for the better, from that of the period before 1830 or even before 1840, that it is hardly possible to suppose a transformation so great could have been made in little more than a single generation.

To come back to our present argument, one of the secrets of this wonderful advance has undoubtedly been our happy freedom from Continental war, and our abstention from entangling alliances. Without reflecting on our former policy—for the circumstances of former periods, as, for instance, during our great struggle with France, may have been such as to compel us to fight for

European freedom—we may, at least, note that, so far as one can judge, the nation has been well-advised in disregarding since the Crimean war all pretexts for the support of British prestige or more than doubtful British interests by armed interference abroad. We are now far stronger than we were in comparison with our neighbours, because we have not competed with them in the race of bloated armaments in time of peace; and the barbarous feelings and habits of violence which protracted war stimulated among us at the beginning of the century have been changed for the better. In this way our taxation per head has diminished, while that of our neighbours has increased, although our increase of wealth and industrial prosperity has been far greater than theirs. If we had had such another war period as that at the beginning of the century to go through, no such progress would have been possible. The amount of the war outlay alone must have made an enormous difference in the annual accumulations of capital and the wages of the masses, and the state of war would have affected the whole tone of feeling throughout the country. The conclusion clearly is that on any new emergency the results of the policy of the last 60 years should be remembered. We see what is gained by merely resting and suffering the internal growth of the nation to proceed. Against all external changes adverse to us an internal force is growing day by day. Every ten years the addition to our population alone without war is now almost as great as the numbers Russia would add to her territory by annexing half Turkey in Europe, while the quality of our people and the capital they possess make the addition, perhaps, as valuable in point of force as an addition to Russia of half the Turkish Empire would be. We do not say that there can be no events abroad calling for interference, or that there are no such events at the present time. All we wish to point out is that the strength we have acquired during long years of peace, and our daily growing strength as our numbers and capital increase, should dispose us to be less and not more jealous of alleged encroachments—more and not less disposed to go our own way, and pursue our own policy, as we see other nations oppressed by the burden of enormous armaments and wasting every now and again in a few years or months of war the fruits of many years of peace. Our want of preparation has perhaps been excessive, but that is a defect which could be easily corrected without adding much to our burdens.

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LEADING ARTICLES.

China, Japan, and 'the most favoured nation clause.' The Tea Duty scare. The Strength of England.

EDITORIAL NOTES.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN OF PAO.

(From the Chinese.) By C. Arendt, Esq. (Specially translated from the German for the *Japan Times*.) Chap. I. The Emperor Hsuan.

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On the Circulation of the New Trade Dollar. (Articles from the *Hochi Shinbun*, *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, and *Chugai Bukka Shimpo*.)

EXTRACTS.

The Strength of England. (From 'The Times'.)

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 24. JUNE 15, 1878.

Prospects of the New Silk Crop. The Press Law and its Critics. A new Leaf of Science.

The Treaty and the Congress. Analysis of Prince Gortschakoff's reply (*Vanity Fair*.)

Does the Conduct of Russia with reference to the Treaty of San Stefano, justify the Calling-out of the Reserves? (ditto.)

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Papers of the German Asiatic Society. On Cremation of The Dead in Japan, by Professor Dr. W. Doenitz.

Notes of the Week. Notes and Queries.

The Japanese Press. Errors in Provincial Governments.

Extracts. Sharks on the Indian coast. How we beat the Favourite.

Mail steamer register.—Reports of Import and Export Trade for March April and May Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, June 21st, 1878.

IMPORTS:—During the week all business has been small, and quotations show no change worthy of notice.

YARN. Deliveries of contract yarn have been made on a large scale, a very satisfactory indication of the healthy demand existing for consumption. Direct sales have, however, been insignificant, but the prices given are those at which the sales have been effected.

SHIRTINGS are in very small enquiry. Sales of 8½ lb have been made at \$1.97½ and of 9 lb at \$2.12½; the highest quotations being \$2.25 and \$2.42½ respectively for the superior class of goods. The consumption of foreign made shirtings is declining in a very marked degree, goods of fair to superior quality having quite lost their hold of the market.

VELVETS are in large supply, and the few sales made have been at a reduction on former quotations.

TURKEY REDS show an advance in price, due, however, more to the superiority in the goods than to special demand.

MOUSSELINEs are firmer at a slight advance.

EXPORTS:—SILK. We refer to this article in our leading columns. We shall not give quotations in this report until there is enough produce brought down to make a market.

TEA:—The rumor of the reimposition of the Tea duty in the United States lacking confirmation, the excitement has died out and for two or three days the market was depressed and quiet; but buyers again seeking samples, prices have slightly hardened and close firm at our quoted rates.

Settlements for the week about Pcls. 5,500 and stocks in first hands of all grades, about Pcls. 6,000. We give below the cargo sent away per steamer *City of Peking* on the 19th inst.

CHINA TEA.		JAPAN TEA.	
To New York...	2,159 packages	To New York...	9,987 packages
" Boston...	797 "	" Boston...	341 "
" Chicago...	245 "	" Chicago...	7,179 "
" San Francisco...	194 "	" San Francisco...	9,428 "
" Other Cities...	30 "	" Other Cities...	1,544 "
Total...	3,425 packages	Total...	28,479 packages

CHINA SILK.		JAPAN SILK.	
To New York...	84 Bales	To New York...	35 Bales
" San Francisco...	2 "	" Hartford...	2 "
" Other Cities...	10 "	Total...	37 Bales
Total...	96 Bales		

EXCHANGE:—A fair business was done in the early part of the past week in private paper on London at 3s. 11½, but since the departure of the American mail on the 19th inst., the Market has been quieter and weaker, and sales to a small extent have been made at 3s. 11¾. The tendency continues in favour of sellers. In Bank Bills, a moderate business was transacted at 3s. 11½, but the quotation to-day is 3s. 11½.

There is very little business or change to report in local rates; an eighth better may be quoted on Shanghai for Bank, but no change on Hongkong.

On New York and San Francisco, only small business is reported at quotations. We quote:—

ON LONDON, Bank 6 m. s.....	3s. 11¼d	ON PARIS, Bank 6 m. s.....	4.97½	ON SHANGHAI, Bank sight.....	72½
" " sight.....	3s. 10¾d	" " sight.....	4.88	" " Private 10d.s....	73½
" Credits 6 m. s. ...	3s. 11¼d	" Dec'ts 6 m. s.....	5.04n'm.	ON HONGKONG, Bank sight....	¾% dis.
" Doc'ts " ...	3s. 11¼d	ON SAN FRANCISCO, Bank sight...	95	" " Private 10d.s....	1½% "
" " continental. 3s. 11¼d		ON NEW YORK, " ...	95		

BULLION & CURRENCY Gold Yen 390½, Kinsatsu 429.

[illegible]

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2					
" No. 2					
" No. 2½ (good medium)					
" No. 3 (medium)					
" Inferior					
Oshio No. 1 and 2					
" No. 1, 2 and 3					
Hamaski No. 1, 2 and 3... ..					
Tea:—					
Common per pcl.	12.00 to — pr. pl.			} Pcls. 5,500	Pcls. 6,000
Good Common... ..	13.00 to 15.00 "				
Medium	16.00 to 18.00 "				
Good Medium	19.00 to 21.00 "				
Fine	23.00 to 25.00 "				
Finest	26.00 to 29.00 "				
Choice	31.00 to 35.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu ... per pcl.	12.00 to — pr. pl.				
" Various	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax	12.00 to 13.00 "				
Coal, Takashima	9.00 to 10.50 "				
" Karatz	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common... ..	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice	2.20 to 2.55 "				
Sulphur (common)... ..	2.60 to 2.80 "				

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
June 15	Vasnick	Novosiloky	Rus. M.-of-W.	1,060	Cruise			
" 15	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	Hongkong	June 10	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 15	Kestrel	Theobald	Brit. G.-boat	462	Cruise			
" 15	Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Hakodate	" 11	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 15	Neriad	Nickerson	Am. barq.	703	Newcastle N.S.W.	Mar 16	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 17	Haydamak	Tirtoff	Rus. M.-of-W.	1,100	Cruise			
" 17	Tibre	De Girard	Frech. str.	1,726	Hongkong	June 10	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 17	Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Jap. str.	1,870	Shanghai & ports	" 9	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 17	Shario Maru	Hogg	Jap. str.	524	Kobe	" 15	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 19	Nimrod	Clark	Brit. barq.	695	Nagasaki		Coals	Adamson, Bell & Co.
" 19	Augusta	Hassenpflug	Ger. cor'tie	1,400	Kobe			
" 19	Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Jap. str.	661	Kobe	" 17	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 21	Mikado	Barelay	Brit. str.	1,993	London	Apr. 22	General	Jardine, Matheson & Co.
" 21	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Hakodate	June 17	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per American steamer, *City of Peking*, from Hongkong:—Miss Van Dycke, Messrs. J. Beale, and G. Banks. For San Francisco: Miss Anderson, Rev. A. Jagliabre, Mrs. E. Biber, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mackie, Miss L. B. Ross, Messrs. Charles De Costar, Henry Mansfield, and B. J. Kick in cabin; and 2 Europeans, and 192 Chinese in steerage.

Per French steamer, *Tibre*, from Hongkong:—Baron Stillfried, Messrs. Umikami, and Kitomuro.

Per Japanese steamer, *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Brooke, Miss Cora Bell, Revd. E. H. Thompson and 2 children, Pay-Inspector G. E. Thornton, U.S.N., Paymaster Shamin, U.S.N., Messrs. R. S. Schwabe, K. Kingdon, J. Reach, L. Holmes, J. J. Bolton, Von Fischer, A. Warner, R. H. Cooke, Parsons, C. McGerrow, C. Schmitz, and 7 Japanese in cabin; and 3 Europeans, 100 Japanese, and 4 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Mikado* from London via Hongkong:—Miss O'Hana and servant, Mrs. Hopkins and two children. For Hiogo: Mr. Palon.

Per Japanese steamer *Sumida Maru*, from Hakodate:—Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Davison, Dr. and Mrs. Fifer and two Children, Messrs. Blume and Wilson.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN:—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Flying Spur," Jan. 9; Feb. 19; "Laurel," Feb. 17; "Bon Accord," Mar. 21; "Berwickshire," April 26.

FROM NEW YORK:—"William Hales," Jan. 24; "City of Boston," Mar. 8; "G. H. Ingersoll," Mar. 15; "Hattie E. Tapley," Mar. 19; "Francisca," April 7; "Pym," March 20.

FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.

FROM PLYMOUTH:—"Earl of Devon," Jan. 27, from Antwerp to Yokohama.

FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.

PASSED ANJER:—"Fair Leader," Apr. 8.

FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.

FROM HONGKONG:—"Orissa," June 16.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"China," June 4.

FROM MIDDLESBRO:—"Midyoshi," April 14.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—S. S. "Sumatra," "John Milton." At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str., June 25th; Hongkong M. M. str., July 3rd; San Francisco, P. M. str., June 26th; Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str., June 29th.

CARGO:—Per French steamer, *Tibre*, from Hongkong:—General from Europe, 2,393 packages; General from Hongkong, 202 packages; Sugar from Hongkong, 1,867 packages; Total, 4,462 packages.

Per Japanese steamer, *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$15,000.00.

REPORTS:—The American steamer *City of Peking* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 10th inst., at 3 p.m., with 11 cabin, 3 European and 192 Chinese steerage passengers, 2,725 tons cargo, and 7 bags mails. Experienced light N. E. winds during passage. Passed French Mail S. S. *Tibre* on the 10th inst. Arrived in Yokohama at 2.24 p.m., on the 15th inst.

The American barque *Neriad* reports:—Left Newcastle, N.S.W., on the 16th March: was 61 days to the Equator, which was crossed in Longitude 162° East. Calms and light baffling airs all the way to this. Have been twelve days within three days sail of port and three days within 70 miles. Easterly winds the past 15 days.

The British barque *Nimrod* reports:—Calms and light adverse winds entire passage.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
June 16	Shinagawa Maru	Frahm	Jap. str.	1,169	Hakodate	June 20	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 17	Coulmakyle	Gordon	Brit. ship	579	Kobe		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 17	Malacca	Smith	Brit. str.	1,709	Hongkong	" 26	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 19	City of Peking	Tanner	Am. str.	5,079	San Francisco	July 9	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 19	Shario Maru	Hogg	Jap. str.	524	Kobe	June 21	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 19	Augusta Reimers	Tanner	Ger. schr.	295	Amoy		Wheat	Chinese.
" 19	Tokio Maru	Swain	Jap. str.	1,136	Shanghai & ports	" 23	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 20	Kokonoye Maru	Hussey	Jap. str.	1,133	Hakodate	" 27	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 20	Hiogo Maru	Christensen	Jap. str.	896	Hakodate		Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 21	Gondolier	Atkinson	Brit. ship	1,049	Oregon		Ballast	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 21	Akitsu Maru	Gorlach	Jap. str.	690	Hakodate	" 25	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

LOADING:—*Volga*, for Hongkong and Europe, June 26th.—M. M. Co.
Hiroshima Maru, for Shanghai and ports, June 26th.—M. B. M. Co.
Glenorchy, for New York, Quick despatch.—Jardine Matheson & Co.
City of Tokio (Hulk), for San Francisco, July 1st.—P. M. Co.
Gaelic (Hulk), for San Francisco, July 14th.—O. & O. Co.
Emma C. Beal, for San Francisco, June 25th.—Walsh, Hall & Co.
Obed Baxter, for New York, Quick despatch.—C. & J. Trading Co.
Rurik, for Callao, July 1st.—Moullon.

MAILS LEAVING:—For Hongkong, P. & O. str., July 3rd; for Hongkong, M. M. str., June 26th; for America, P. M. str., July 1st O. & O. str., July 14th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str., June 26th; for Hakodate, M. B. M. str.

PASSENGERS:—Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco:—Mrs. J. R. Morse and child, Mrs. Adams and child, Mrs. Allen and two children, Capt. J. A. Perkins, Capt. F. R. Blackburne, R.N., Capt. C. A. Hayes, R.N., Lieut. Gibbings and Crespen, R.N., Commander C. A. Dundas, R.N., Revd. Arthur Tooth, Revd. F. B. Plummer, Messrs. R. J. Blackburn, F. C. Ravenshaw, C. J. Johnstone, R. Wilson, Geo. Miller, F. Hoyt, M. Takashie, Wilson, Dr. W. J. Hue, and W. Collea, U.S.N., in cabin; and 26 Europeans in steerage.

Per British steamer *Malacca*, for Hongkong:—Madame Paskoff, Messrs. J. R. Davidson, D. Hardie, Penning Godfrey, Edgar, and G. Hirobi in cabin; and 44 Europeans and 8 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tokio Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. J. C. Hubbard, Messrs. Yokura, Kirby, Rohde, Mitsui, Sumibataki, Abe, Kajima, Kuwasu, A. H. Adams, Miss J. J. Mansfield, Messrs. Allen, Low Su Pan, Loo Ju Ming, Mr. and Mrs. Sawahara, Mr. and Mrs. Miyagi and two children, Messrs. Helmholz, Theodorof, Helbronner, Carl Rohde, V. Roehr, T. Marians, and Mr. and Mrs. Kuroda.

CARGO:—Per Jap. str. *Tokio Maru* for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, 5,000.00 Yen. For cargo per *Peking* see Market Report.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FROM.	ARRIVED.	CONSIGNEES.	DESTINATION.
STEAMERS.							
Aarhuus	Solling	Danish steamer	251	N'wca'len s.w.	June 4	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Laid up. Repairing. New York.
Banri Maru	Carter	Japanese steamer	944	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Genkai Maru		Japanese steamer	1,917	Kobe		M. B. M. Co.	
Glenorchy	Hogg	British steamer	1,775	London		Jardine, Matheson & Co.	M. B. M. Co.
Hiroshima Maru	Burdie	Japanese steamer	1,870	Shanghai & p'rts	June 9	M. B. M. Co.	
Mikado	Barclay	British steamer	1,993	London	June 22	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Shario Maru	Hogg	Japanese steamer	524	Kobe	June 15	M. B. M. Co.	M. B. M. Co.
Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Japanese steamer	896	Hakodate	June 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Suminoye Maru	Nye	Japanese steamer	852	Hakodate	April 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Thabor	Pendered	Japanese steamer	600	Kobe	Oct. 9	Lighthouse Department	M. M. Co.
Tibre	De Girard	French steamer	1,726	Hongkong	June 10	M. M. Co.	
Tsuruga Maru	Moore	Japanese steamer	661	Kobe	June 17	M. B. M. Co.	
Volga	Rolland	French steamer	1,502	Hongkong	June 7	M. M. Co.	Hongkong &c.
SAILING SHIPS.							
Coldingham	Phillips	British ship	1,059	Sydney	April 15	E. Abbott.	F'r fre'htorch'rt'r.
Emma C. Beal	Bailey	American barque	567	N'wca'len s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Fleetwing	Guest	American ship	829	New York	June 7	Grosser & Co.	
Frederik Stang	Uchermann	Norwegian ship	992	N'wca'len s.w.	June 1	Walsh, Hall & Co.	Chin' & J'p'n Tr'ding Co.
Haze	Evans	American ship	856	New York	June 2	Lane, Crawford & Co.	
Mary Goodell	Eames	American barque	716	New York	Dec. 20	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Nereid	Nickerson	American barque	703	Newcastle s.w.	Mar. 16	Adamson, Bell & Co.	C. & J. Trading Co.
Nimrod	Clark	British barque	695	Nagasaki		Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Obed Baxter	Baxter	American barque	916	Amboy	April 17	C. & J. Trading Co.	
Rurik	Bergeland	Russian barque	839	N'wca'len s.w.	May 25	Walsh, Hall & Co.	C. & J. Trading Co.
Sooloo	Allen	American ship	961	New York	Dec. 12	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Toowoomba	Kirkpatrick	British barque	585	N'wca'len s.w.	June 4	Walsh, Hall & Co.	
Winlow	Barker	British barque	540	Hakodate	June 14	Yokohama Ice Co.	

VESSELS OF WAR IN PORT.

NAME.	GUNS.	TONS.	DESCRIPTION.	COMMANDER.
AMERICAN—Monocacy	6	1,370	Sloop	Captain Fyffe.
BRITISH—Juno	8	2,216	Corvette	Captain Poland.
" —Modeste	27	1,913	Corvette	Captain Mead.
" —Egeria	4	1,011	Sloop	Captain Douglas, R. N.
" —Frolic	8	594	Gun vessel	Captain Dupuis.
" —Kestrel	4	462	Gun boat	Captain Theobald.
FRENCH—La Cloche	12	1,990	Corvette	Captain Rieunier.
" —Cosmao	12	1,900	Corvette	Captain Dumas Venes.
" —Armide	14	3,790	Iron Clad	Captain Labarriere.
JAPANESE—Kongo	9	1,800	Corvette	
" —Hi-yei	9	1,761	Corvette	
" —Foo-so Kan	6	3,718	Corvette	
RUSSIAN—Boyan	8	2,000	Corvette	Captain Boyle.
" —Abrek	7	1,000	Gun vessel	Captain Schance.
" —Vsadnick	8	1,060	Man-of-War	Captain Novosilsky.
" —Haydamak	7	1,100	Man-of-War	Captain Tirtoff.
GERMAN—Augusta	12	1,400	Corvette	Captain Hassenpflug.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ... \$5,000,000.
RESERVE FUND ... \$1,000,000.

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Deputy Chairman—Wm. H. FORBES, Esq.

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Albert Deacon, Esq., of Messrs. E. & A. Deacon.

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Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

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Manager—EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

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Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 1 o/o on Daily balances.

On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 5 o/o.

" " " " 6 " " 4 "

" " " " 3 " " 3 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

A. M. TOWNSEND, Acting Manager.

Yokohama, April 13, 1878.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Paid-up Capital ... £1,500,000.

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The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hiogo, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, and San Francisco; on terms which may be ascertained at their office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Routes via India and America.

They undertake the agency of parties connected with India and the Colonies, the purchase and sale of Interest, Dividends, Pay, Pensions, &c., and the effecting of remittances between the above named Dependencies.

They also receive deposits of \$100 and upwards for fixed periods, the terms of which may be ascertained on application at their office.

Office hours, Ten to Three; Saturday, Ten to Twelve.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA LONDON, AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

HEAD OFFICE—65 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

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Straits Settlements Singapore, Penang.
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The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.
(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
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These Companies will accept Risks for large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions, at current rates of premia :

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

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PHENIX Co., Messrs. HECHT, LILIENTHAL & Co.
MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
(ESTABLISHED 1821.)

This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....	12 Months.....	1½	Per Cent.
" " "	6 "	1	" "
" " "	3 "	¾	" "
" " "	1 "	¾	" "
" " "	10 days	3-16	" "
Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,			
First Class, per annum.....	2½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	3	" "	
Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,			
First Class, per annum.....	1½	Per Cent.	
Second " "	2	" "	

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.,
FIRE.

Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

At Home rates of premium and on the Participation System.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents for Yokohama and Hiogo.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE JAVA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE CO.,
BATAVIA, JAVA.**THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE**
INSURANCE COMPANY,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent at Yokohama for the above Companies, is prepared to accept Marine Risks at Current rates. No Policy Fees Charged.

J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

MANILA GOVERNMENT LOTTERY.

Ordinary drawings every month June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " 4,000	1 " " 25,000
5 prizes " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " 5,000 each
8 " " 500 "	15 " " 1,000 "
20 " " 100 "	20 " " 500 "
450 " " 30 "	400 " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " 250 "
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Postage Extra.

Positively yen accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance. For further particulars apply to

G. GOUDAREAU,
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Sole Agent in Japan for Manila Government Lottery.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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AFFORDS

EVERY ACCOMMODATION AND CONVENIENCE for VISITORS and RESIDENTS.

Liberal Table. Excellent Wines.

MODERATE CHARGES.

HOT, COLD, and SEA-WATER BATHS, at all HOURS.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

S. T. CHARLES HOTEL,
No. 60, MAIN STREET.

BOARD & LODGING first floor.....	\$50.00
do. do. second floor.....	\$40.00
BOARD only per month.....	\$25.00
DINNER	0.75
TIFFIN	0.50

THE Proprietors of this Hotel beg to call the attention of the Public to the above moderate charges and to state that all Provisions and Liquors supplied are of the best quality only.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE BANK EXCHANGE BILLIARD & BOWLING
SALOON.

No. 37, WATER STREET, No. 37.

THE READING ROOM is furnished with all the leading English and American papers, by every mail.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agent to the above Company, is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates at Yokohama and Tokio.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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MADAME A. JAQUEMOT (née Dogny) proposes to establish at Geneva, Switzerland, a Boarding School for Girls, and for Boys under 12 years of age; where they will have the advantages of a sound education and sedulous domestic care.

Boys over 12 years of age may be committed to Madame Jaquemot's charge as boarders, and parents can thus secure for them the comforts of a home, with the opportunity of attending one or other of those educational establishments for which Geneva is so justly celebrated.

Parents wishful to place children under her charge at the Pension Dogny, may address their enquiries as to terms &c. to the Editor of the *Japan Times*, who is empowered to furnish them.

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THE JAPAN TIMES

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

NEW SERIES. VOL. 1. No. 26.]

June 29, 1878.

[\$24 PER ANNUM.]

IRREGULAR IRREGULARITIES.

MANY a true word is, proverbially, spoken in jest, and our slight allusion, in the 'Notes' of last week's gossip, to the delay in despatching the *City of Peking* on her voyage to San Francisco, may with propriety be made the text of more serious remark. We are fully aware of the magnitude of the work to be done in unloading and re-loading such a vessel as this, and we cordially give all the credit which is justly due to the administrative power which can unship, ship and tranship between three and four thousand tons of cargo, coal and stores, in the space of sixty or seventy hours. In these days of close competition between shipping companies, too, the necessity of utilizing every hour ought to receive full weight at the hands of those whose duty may call them to criticize the working of such enterprises. And especial care should also be taken in apportioning what blame has to be shared, properly amongst those who should bear it, lest to the critic be applied the often too apt quotation in such cases:—

"Dat veniam corvis, vexat censura columbas."

But shipping Companies live and work under the Common Carriers' Act, in England, and under equivalent legislative statutes in other countries, and they are the servants,—perhaps, after bankers, the most important servants, of any mercantile community. And experience has always shown us that it is practically impossible for any shipping Company to secure, and retain for any length of time, such a monopoly of the carrying trade of any section of the world's commerce as will make it independent of the merchants whose goods its vessels carry, and thus transfer it from the position of a servant to that of a master. Of these facts, the Directors and Managers of shipping Companies are fully aware; their own interests therefore and a wholesome fear of competition must always be actively operating to induce them to study carefully the convenience of their clients. But as good servants very often take charge, to a certain extent, of careless masters and their property, so it is always within the power of shipping Companies—and is always ultimately acknowledged as a benefit—to lay down rules, to which they may compel their employers to conform. When these are seen to be reasonable and convenient to the general body of traders, they are conformed to cheerfully, in spite of occasional hardship or inconvenience which their action may inflict on individuals. When they are inconvenient to the majority, the fact is immediately discovered and the rules repealed.

Applying these principles to the case of the two great shipping lines on which China and Japan depend for trade communication with the United States, we find them acknowledged and fairly acted up to, except in one particular, on which a complaint may, we think, be fairly based. And we think the mercantile communities of the ports at which their vessels touch will unite with ourselves in giving the personal staffs of all their establishments full credit

for civility, anxiety to oblige their constituents, and a most laudable energy in rapidly transacting their business. But they are neither of them in the position of such Companies as the Peninsular and Oriental, the Messageries Maritimes, the Royal Mail, or any of the other great European Steam Navigation lines, subject, as to their dates of arrival or departure, to the orders of a Post Master General, or liable to heavy fine in case of breach of his regulations. They fix their own dates of departure, to suit—partly, the requirements of the public,—partly their own profit and convenience; the latter—we are bound to say,—being, as a general rule, subordinated to the former. Hence their duty to the public is held to be sufficiently discharged, if they make due advertisement of their dates of sailing, without issuing—as the Postal Companies do—a schedule of dates of arrival and departure for a period. But we think all will agree with us that the nearer these independent Companies approach the regular system the better, and there can be no doubt that—the date of departure once advertised—it should be strictly adhered to, except in extraordinary cases, and that then ample notice should be given of postponement. We are not inclined to make much allowance for unforeseen causes of delay, because we hold that the interval estimated as necessary between the arrival and departure of a vessel should be of such a length as to include the majority of such accidents, and though a few extra hours of the steamer's time might thus be sometimes given away, this is a concession which the mercantile public has a right to demand. And also we insist that an Agent should err on the side against his ship's convenience when delay is probable, even possible, beyond the originally advertised time, and not cling too long to the hope of being able to keep his original engagement. For irregularities in arrivals and departures we are prepared, in the case of Companies not under Postal control, but when irregular dates are irregularly kept, then Pelion is heaped upon Ossa, and oppressed Commerce has a right to groan.

The P. M. S. S. Co.'s *City of Peking* arrived on Saturday, the 5th instant, from Hongkong, and her departure was immediately advertised for Wednesday, the 9th, inst. at daybreak. At midnight on Tuesday, the European staff of the office personally went round the settlement to warn shippers "that some delay in departure would probably be necessary: in event, however, of the steamer being in readiness to sail at the appointed hour (daybreak), the Company would, in view of the inconvenience attending upon uncertainty, detain her until 9 a.m. at the earliest, As a fact, the vessel sailed at 11.15 a.m."

We quote this statement, of purpose, from the *Gazette*, because that journal took upon itself the defence of the Company against complaints lodged against it in the columns of the *Herald*. It proceeded to argue that this midnight notice (we put out of court the doubt expressed elsewhere whether the notice given was 'official') was the

only means open to the Agent to lessen the inconvenience resulting from the delay. The delay itself the *Gazette* accounted for, and justly, by the fact that Sunday being wet, the arrangements made for working on that day were futile and that, consequently, twenty hours or so were lost. Also that the *Hiroshima Maru* from Kobe, with a large cargo for transshipment, was late, and that several important shippers, who had also been prevented from sending their tea on board on Sunday, had to be accommodated; and finally that, at this season of the year, it is difficult to get coolies, in any number, to work in an emergency.

We are quite willing to admit the value of all these arguments as sufficient reason for the delay—the more so, that they all weigh equally heavily in favour of our contention that sufficient notice of the postponement was not given. Granting that an unusually large amount of cargo, coal, and stores had to be got out of and into the ship and that labour was scarce; that important constituents had to be accommodated, &c., these facts must have all been known to the Agent on Saturday afternoon, when the departure of the vessel was advertised for Wednesday at daybreak; and it is to be presumed that the eighty-odd hours he allowed for the work was the time during which he deemed the work could be comfortably done. But Sunday was wet, and twenty hours were lost. Would it not have been better, then, on Monday morning, to have advertised a postponement of sufficient length to have made up for the time lost, instead of trying to crush eighty hours' work into sixty, and making every one concerned uncomfortable? Clearly so,—and we believe that the Agents of the two great Pacific Shipping Companies only require so common-sense a proposal to be made to them to accept it. They have ample means of estimating the amount of work to be got through for the despatch of each vessel, and their experience teaches them better than any one can tell them, in how many working hours that work can be done. Let them make their estimate—allowing the necessary small margin for contingencies—and advertise the hour of departure. Then, when bad weather, or some other extraordinary circumstance, deprives them of a certain number of working hours, let them *immediately* advertise a postponement. If this were made an invariable rule, and if the public could rely on the fact that six hours' rain, or weather so rough as to interrupt shipping, meant six hours' postponement of the original date of departure, there would be no cause for complaint. What merchants and bankers have complained of hitherto—and justly—is that when postponement is possible, or even probable, it is not soon enough made certain. Enquiries at the office are always met by the reply that no positive information can be given on the subject, and thus, from the otherwise laudable desire to keep faith with their customers according to their first published announcement—in which, after all, they generally fail—the Agents provoke indignation, and waste of tissue and temper, which in hot weather and a busy season are better spared. And for what? To gain a dozen hours in a voyage of from twenty to thirty days!

WASTED LABOUR.

ABOUT fifty feet more of the Creek wall, in front of the French Consular ground and of the British Naval Yard, slipped down on the night of the 27th instant, thus giving a couple of months', or more, of employment to the contractor for the works, and a few hundred dollars to the officials who 'stand in' with him. Though almost incredible to Europeans, it is a fact that the reason given by the local Government, for persisting in building up the Creek and Bund walls in the fashion we see,—which involves these periodical falls, and easy destruction in high wind—is that if they were properly constructed, they

would not occasionally fall, and so give employment to a number of very worthy people. No foundation is laid—a bank of timber is used as a sill, placed upon the mud, and on this the stones, roughly square on the outer face, and tapering to a point on the inner, resembling nothing so much as the rind of a pineapple, are laid in rows, without cement, mortar, or other means of attachment, and against this the earth is filled up from behind. In course of time, of course, the timber rots and sags down, the wave-like line along the wall indicating clearly enough the points of failure, as they occur. Then comes a night of heavy rain, which saturates the backing of earth and increases the pressure on the facing; the rotten sill gives way, down comes a rood or two of wall, and 'employment' is given to a fresh batch of coolies who—as happens at this moment—could be much more usefully employed in the rice-fields.

It is curious how difficult it appears to be to drive into the heads of even educated Japanese,—men, apparently, of more than average intelligence—the rudimentary principles of Plutonomy. This idea, for instance, of 'finding employment' for labour, cannot be eradicated at present. They cannot see that labour is capital, and that to waste labour is as foolish and wrong as to burn food. The late Governor of Hiogo was quite a cultivated man. He took, specially, a great interest in astronomy and applied mathematics, was the author of some translations from foreign standard works on these subjects, and spent the major part of his official salary, during his tenure of office, in building and endowing schools within the district over which he ruled. Yet he could not be brought to see the truth, so self-evident to the European mind, that wasting labour was equivalent to wasting money. All along the shore between Kobe and Osaka the land rises gradually from the sea towards a range of bluffs, leaving a 'carse' or strip of fertile land between the beach and the hills. At frequent intervals, these hills are pierced by gorges, down which flow torrents. The hills being chiefly composed of a granite which is easily disintegrated, these streams, as they have been flowing for centuries, have gradually cut out beds for themselves, and bring down large deposits of sand to the entrance of the gorges, through which they filter to the sea, rarely—except after very heavy rains, showing above ground even a thread of water. At intervals up the valleys, to a distance, sometimes, of nearly three miles from the beach, are dotted rice-cleaning mills, the most remote of which are on a level of at least twelve hundred feet above high-water mark. And up the passes may be daily seen strings of bullocks carrying the uncleaned rice to the mills, and other strings of bullocks bringing down the cleaned rice to the shore. Meanwhile the rice is grown on the lower grounds and frequent trouble is experienced from want of water.

Now it was found impossible to convince this educated, intelligent, cultivated Governor that it would pay better than the existing system, to dam up the streams in reservoirs, which could be most easily made, by building across the necks of natural bottle-shaped cavities with hard rock sides,—of which in these gorges there is no lack,—thence to bring down the water in iron pipes or even in wooden flumes, to the beach, and there,—by means of the enormous water power thus given, to work fifty times as many rice mills as were required, besides ensuring a constant supply of water, at need, for the rice fields, and saving nine-tenths of the precious fluid which now sinks into the sand. He placidly listened to the details of the scheme, and then—as a crushing and totally sufficient reply—asked:—'But what would the people do who now carry the rice up and down, and whose means of livelihood would thus be taken away from them?' And from this position, figures, facts, argument and persuasion failed to move His Excellency.

He is, here, a typical man. And in a country, long secluded from the rest of the world, consequently without foreign commerce, and ruled over by a despotism of a paternal character, the existence of the type must not surprise us. The Mikado was heaven-born, at once Emperor and God; the nobles either traced their descent from collateral branches of his stock, or held their rank and power by virtue of service paid, the *samurai* were the executants of the will of their lords, and the administrators of the government. To support this hierarchy, aristocracy and gentry, the people toiled; and in exchange for their labour and their submission, all they asked was permission to live, and the wherewithal to support life. In a country without foreign trade, accumulation of wealth could only come from the saved surplus of its own production, and as civil war, infanticide, and other causes unnecessary to enumerate, always kept down population, a surplus was forthcoming, even from the limited area of land under cultivation and from its almost untouched mines. For in Japan, blessed with such a climate, and such a soil, that the earth had but to be 'ticked with a plough, to make her laugh with a harvest'—where cotton, silk, tea, sugar, tobacco, rice and barley were all either indigenous, or had been imported so long ago, and had taken so kindly to the soil that their origin was forgotten,—food, clothing and shelter were easily and cheaply got, at a *minimum* of labour for a *maximum* of return. The people's wants were few, and luxury was the birthright of the nobles,—and to their credit be it said—luxury meant rather the exquisite simplicity of perfect art than costly display of barbaric gold. Thus the duty of the rulers towards the ruled was simplified,—to provide that each man should have the wherewithal to feed, and clothe, and house himself and his family. A task, then, easily discharged and a living so easily earned, that two-thirds of life-time was left for leisure. That each man should then have a small amount of work doled out to him to do, that a large number of labourers should be employed to turn out a small product, was natural enough, and the character of ancient Japanese art-work, lovingly lingered over and finished with utmost elaboration, is alone sufficient to indicate the habits of the people. A country of large and easily developed resources, inhabited by a sparse population with few wants, and without incentive to accumulate wealth, must necessarily be a land of leisure.

But all this is changed. Japan, not knowing its own good, or the blessing of repose, is now possessed with the spirit of "progress;" is ambitious, restless, eager to accumulate wealth, lavish to spend it on new and foreign luxuries. Her Emperor has been discovered to be mortal, her ancient nobility has been vulgarized, her chivalry extinguished or laughed away. Magnificent piles of stone and brick and stucco, incongruous conglomerations of every style of architecture—Greek, Roman, debased Gothic, baser *Renaissances*,—disfigure the Capital and even the provincial towns, and provide prey for the great earthquake which is nearly due; while the exquisite monuments of their own lovely, artistic past,—such as the Shrines of Shiba, than which nothing remains on earth more beautiful, nothing more nearly approaching perfection, in form, colour, proportion and harmony, are abandoned to decay. Their picturesque, cheap, comfortable dress is abandoned for ugly, costly European slops, in which they look more like monkeys than men, foreign furniture is imported into their houses; foreign food and drink, unhealthy and unsuitable to their climate and their race, is brought to their tables, and foreign luxuries of every kind, even up to iron-clads, rifled cannon and the latest improvements in deadly weapons, are provided, to be the 'loot' of the first foreign power whom it may suit to seize them. This is New Japan. But for all these

luxuries, money must be found,—money to waste in costly experiments, undertaken without thought, and abandoned without fair trial; money to squander on the useless trash we have named, money to gratify the new tastes, to indulge the new vices, which have been imported to spoil the people, to kill the old simple life of joy. Be it so. But, abandoning her old happier conservatism, and entering into this feverish, worn-out artificial outer world of ours, she cannot do it by halves. The price of increased labour must be paid to buy this increase of 'pleasure,' this 'civilization'—to pay for her ticket on the railway of 'progress.' And her rulers and her people must learn, therefore—and learn soon—all the hard lessons of modern trade: of which the first is that Labour means Money, and Capital Accumulation, and that consequently economy of labour is the readiest way to wealth.

L' ENVOY.

IN THE first number of this Review, we gave but an 'Apology for a Prologue'—alleging in excuse that the reputation won by the *Japan Times*' first series entitled its second to immunity from the necessity of publishing a manifesto of its policy or its aims. With this, the last number of the volume, we present our readers with our Index, and this slight reference to it must stand us in the stead of l' Envoy.

Those who, like ourselves, have often had to turn over thousands of pages of those best histories of New Japan, the files of the foreign Press, in search of a Report or a Notification, to establish a fact or to correct a date,—must have regretted the wasted time for which the absence of Indexes has been responsible. We have to plead guilty to our own impeachment, so far as regards the first series of the *Japan Times*, but we promise that it shall be amended in the second, and the best proof of our contrition is given to-day.

This is not the time to review the record of the past; the last pages of our second volume will be the fitting place for a sketch of this year's chapter of the history of Japan, but some slight reference to the progress made by the government and its people, as indicated by the subjects of the 'Leading Articles' enumerated in our Table of Contents, will not be altogether amiss. Prominent on the record, a blot upon the people's fame, is the hardly-dried stain of Okubo's blood. But for that terrible spot, the record would be fair enough. The Press Laws have been ameliorated, Currency Reform initiated, Forestry Laws have been passed; an improved plan of keeping the national accounts has been adopted, the Silk Trade has been freed from a number of petty and vexatious restrictions, a bold experiment is being made with a view to improve the production and to extend the market of another great staple—Tea: the Navy has been greatly strengthened, and an attempt has just been made to improve the administration of the great national line of merchant steamers; the Postal System has been extended, and a number of new offices built, and the control of the whole Telegraph system has been taken over by Government; and,—most important step of all,—the first seeds of representative Government have been sown in the shape of the Provincial Synods whose establishment we recorded only a month ago. These are long steps of healthy movement, and, were the half-year's record undefaced by the murder of the statesman who originated or suggested most, and himself conducted many of them, it would have been fair indeed. The country had hardly yet recovered the convulsion of last year's rebellion, when the very existence of the Government was threatened, and Anarchy's baleful shadow threw a gloom over the land; and that such concessions should have been made as those we have enu-

merated is highly creditable to the Cabinet, as evidencing both courage and sagacity; while all friends of the country may also take them as a proof that the Mikado's advisers feel secure in their position, and that our trade has no political change, no counter-revolution, to dread.

This Index serves, for us, another purpose. It does not become us to review our own work, but to this we may silently point—and ask our readers to judge for themselves how the promise of our first number has been fulfilled. We may, we think, also undertake—with some confidence that we shall be believed—that as this Review has been commenced, in the same spirit it will be continued. Not slavishly flattering the rulers of the country, not unsympathetic to the aspirations of the ruled, the *Japan Times* will continue to give an independent support to those, the best counsel at its command to these. It is most gratifying to know that already evidence has been given that its work in this direction has not been altogether in vain: and we look forward with hope, not wholly unsupported by belief, that the time is not distant when—a closer connection being permitted between the native and foreign press—it will be in our power to give far more effectual aid.

That the etiquette of the Press prevents us from doing more than mention another group of lines in the Table of Contents presses sorely upon us. How lovingly we should linger over our re-perusal, how elaborately we should polish our review, of Captain Brinkley's 'Ishikawa Goyemon,' we may not say. The splendid contrast of the reckless bandit's deeds, with the delicious, sensuous, artistic life of calm in the Palace of Pleasure—Goyemon's magnificent courage, whose blaze hides from sight so many a crime,—Bansaku's devotion—Chiyo's love; the dark perfidy of Ishida Mitsunari, the complex puzzle of Hidetsugu's character, the plot and its failure—the vengeance and its remorse; the careful archaeological studies, the interesting historical portraits; the slight sketch of Iyeyasu, the fuller picture of Taiko and his Court; the minute analyses of character and emotion, the descriptions of scenery, so graphic that, as the reader scans the page, he trembles at the roar of the hurricane, or sees the round red moon slowly rising through the mist upon the lake; all woven together by the hand of such a master and on such a splendid warp of diction, that the finished web glitters like Japan's own gorgeous brocades—to review a book like this would indeed be a labour of love. But we must leave the task to other hands.

The other divisions of our Index we may dismiss with brief mention. Our Law Reports, we are glad to know, are appreciated, and we believe that the selections we have made from the Japanese Press have been thought interesting. In our Commercial Tables and Reports we are yet far behind what we hope to achieve; but our public is aware of the mechanical difficulties under which this first volume has been created, and due allowance will be made. The necessary plant has been ordered from England which will enable us to enlarge the Review and, we trust, make it more valuable to commercial men. And with the aspiration that we may be successful in doing this, as also in catering for other classes of our readers, we place our first volume in the hands of the community, leave to their appreciation the labour of the past,—and with, we hope, a not unjustified confidence, await their support in the toil of the future.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IT must constantly have occurred to those who see the scars left in the banks of the Creek by such accidents as that to which we have referred in our leading columns, to wonder by what rule they always occur at night, as they apparently do, and why serious accidents do not often

attend the fall of the earth. The following account of another landslip, which occurred a little way from the settlement, which we take from the *Gazette*, shows that this immunity is not always to be depended on. Our contemporary says:—

"A covered drain is in course of being made by a Government contractor down the slope leading from the English and American Naval Hospitals, past the Spring Valley Brewery, to the lower part of the village of Itagaki. At one point, close to the pond on Messrs. Copeland and Wiegand's property, the drain is led through a hard compact stratum of gravel, above which is a layer of soft earth. The top of this, crowned with trees and shrubs, overhangs the work at a height of some thirty feet. Not only was no precaution taken by the contractor to prevent the falling in of the upper surface, but the cutting was carried on in precisely the manner often employed to produce what miners call a fall, namely, by working directly into the lower part of the face of the bank. Yesterday, loosened by the rains, down came a large portion of the bank while two men were at work in the drain. One appears to have had notice of the swift calamity just in time to escape 'with the skin of his teeth.' The rattle of loose earth alarmed him, and he had swarmed partly up the opposite side of the drain, when he was caught by an avalanche of earth, stones, trees, roots, and bushes, which buried him from the shoulders downwards. His head alone was visible when his companions and others rushed to the spot. They soon extricated him; and, though he was badly bruised and squeezed, yet he is said to be in no danger of his life. The other unfortunate had entirely disappeared under the slip, and as this extended over a length of several yards, and his whereabouts could only be surmised, half-an-hour elapsed before the eager rescuers, of whom there were about a hundred, working, all honour to them, with feverish zeal, unearthed his body. This, quite dead, was, at length, found three feet below the surface. The man had been caught by a large root which jammed him against the side of the drain, where he had evidently been stifled by the mass which covered him. The appearance of the corpse and the expression of its face lead to the belief that death must have been sudden and easy. None the less was the deceased a sacrifice to carelessness, or greed, or both; and we sincerely hope that the Kencho will order an inquiry into the circumstances of the accident. It is perhaps well for the contractor that the investigation, if any be made, will not be carried on before a British coroner and jury."

This, of course, is an accident resulting from pure ignorance,—the most crass stupidity, in fact,—but in the case of the Creek wall, the local authorities cannot plead even this sorry excuse; for the proper way of building retaining walls has been repeatedly pointed out to them, and when their persistence in a faulty system results in a fatal accident to some foreigner, a very good diplomatic claim for damages may be set up. The Japanese set the lives of their own people at a low rate, but foreign governments estimate those of their citizens at a high figure.

WE have again, for the same reason as that given last week, to load our 'Japanese Press' columns with articles from the native papers on Currency. Our readers have to thank the accident that our translator is incapacitated by sudden illness, that they have not to wade through a couple more. One of our native contemporaries of the capital has at last taken up the argument which we have been so persistently presenting to the Japanese mind, that the Trade Dollar of 420 grains is too heavy and that it must be reduced to the same weight as the Mexican to prepare it for the race for public favour in the East. We regret that we are unable, to-day, to print a translation of this article: we are glad, however, to be able to record the fact that it has been written, as an indication that Japanese financiers are gradually becoming educated in, at least, the rudimentary principles of finance.

THE *City of Tokio*, we perceive is, advertised to leave for San Francisco at 3 p.m. on Monday next, instead of at daybreak, as heretofore, and the Post office will consequently close at 1 p.m. With the exception of tea firers and tea-packers, therefore, it will not be necessary to work

on Sunday either during the day or night, and the Agent of the Pacific Mail Company deserves the thanks of the Community for so promptly acceding to its wishes in this respect, as expressed in our own columns, and in those of a contemporary, last week. We have, ourselves, all the more reason to acknowledge the favour, as our duty has appeared to us to compel our taking the Company to task on another score in our leading columns. We regret that we have not space, to-day, to address also a few remarks to the merchants who compel the Sunday labour which in the old days of Yokohama was unheard of, and which is now assuming the proportions of a scandal and a disgrace to a community of men calling themselves—at all events—'Christians' dwelling among the Heathen. The columns of a newspaper are not the proper pulpit for such a sermon as might well and fairly be preached on the subject; but there are economic and hygienic arguments enough to bring against the practice to condemn it utterly, and some of these—on an occasion when time and opportunity serve—we shall take leave to adduce.

SO much has been said, written and legislated at home in vain against the wicked merchants, middlemen, and grocers who have mixed, adulterated, and generally bedevilled the pure Chinese leaf which is the source of that 'cup which cheers and not inebriates,'—that the following Proclamation by the acting Lieutenant-Governor of Fuhkien comes to the soul thirsting for pure tea with a very refreshing force and deserves the gratitude of every woman in the United Kingdom. The vigour with which His Excellency denounces these counterfeiting "villains" who mix willow leaves with those of the tea shrub, and his just horror at the misdeeds of "these seditious and dishonest scoundrels," together with his offer of so large a sum as \$100 for the arrest of any one of them, are highly admirable, and fully sufficient evidence of his justice, uprightness and sincerity; while that mercy, which should always temper justice, is displayed in equal measure by his promise to pardon and overlook what has gone before, should these evil-doers turn over a new leaf (strictly plucked from the tea shrub) and "wash their hearts and strip the skin from their faces." We take our translation of his characteristic Proclamation from the *Foochow Herald*:—

"I, Pao, by Imperial Appointment Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Fuhkien, issue the proclamation below for the arrest [of certain offenders].

"Whereas information has reached me that lately certain counterfeiting villains, knowing the difficulty of detecting the admixture of young willow leaves dried and prepared, with genuine tea,—are, in their greed for gain, only awaiting the arrival of the new season's tea to make this admixture.

"Whereas moreover the new season's tea, will shortly be pouring into Foochow in all directions from the various tea districts, the immediate apprehension [of the above mentioned malefactors] and the suppression [of the fraud] is much to be desired, to the end, that the guilty may be punished and the merchants protected.

"Therefore, besides giving orders for a rigid and secret search for and punishment of [the offenders], I issue this prohibitory proclamation to inform all classes that these seditious and dishonest scoundrels are uniting together to make false tea with a view to defrauding the merchants and to damaging [the trade]. Their crime is therefore very great.

"Any of their accomplices who may repent of their past misdeeds, and wish to turn over a new leaf (lit: wash their heart and strip the skin from their face), I am willing to pardon, and to overlook what has gone before. But if, after this Proclamation has been issued, they continue to offend and will not change their conduct, when complaint is made of them or they are discovered and brought up for trial, I shall assuredly give instructions for an augmented punishment and will not abate one jot of it.

"I am informed that the persons in Foochow who are at the head of this fabrication of spurious tea, are few in number; if therefore any man can bring one of them bound to my Yamen, and the accusation prove to be true, a reward of \$100 will be given. Any person laying an information against one of these principal offenders will, on its being verified, receive a reward of \$50. Nevertheless, people must not, to gratify a grudge, bring false accusa-

tions,—should this happen the informer shall himself receive the punishment.

"Let all, trembling, obey without fail.

"A very important Proclamation!

"10th May, 1878.

We should not omit to mention the fact that to H. B. M. Consul at Foochow was primarily due the Governor's action: and that a similar Notification is to be issued by the heads of departments in the outlying tea-districts.

"WE UNDERSTAND," says the *Friend of India*, "that the Government of India anticipates that the gross receipts of the Forest Department for 1877-78, will aggregate Rs. 65,52,500, and the expenditure Rs. 45,67,350, leaving a net balance for the year in favour of the State of Rs. 19,85,150. Compared with the regular estimate for 1876-77, there is expected to be a falling off under all three headings, and a considerable diminution of receipts, but an increase of expenditure compared with 1875-76. This is owing to the receipts for that year being exceptionally high, especially in the Punjab and British Burmah, while the expenditure was less than that estimated for either of the two following years. Referring to the operations of the Department for May, June, and July last, and commenting on the above facts, the Secretary of State remarks:—The areas of forest at present reserved and demarcated throughout India bear but a small proportion to what it is hoped may eventually be taken up by the Department; and as these are annually extended, it may be expected that the expenditure required for their conservancy will also increase. It is undoubtedly desirable that this increase of cost should be covered by receipts from the sale of forest produce, and under careful management this will no doubt be the case; at the same time it must be borne in mind that the present operations of the Department are more with a view to the protection of forests from destruction, and the extension of their resources so as to meet the increased demands that may be expected to be made on them in the future, than for the purpose of present revenue. Some day, however, it may be hoped that the State forests will contribute to no inconsiderable extent to the resources of the Empire."

The Japanese Government should take this lesson from the Indian. Though, indubitably, State forests, in course of time, will become a source of profit—the chief end in view is not direct receipt of money from them, but indirect benefit to be derived by the people generally, in improvement of climate and soil, and the prevention of scarcity, floods and general damage. And if a Government cannot make profits immediately out of its forests, neither is it to be expected that private forest-planters can do so: and therefore terms on which land is let for this purpose must be very liberal,—far more so than those announced in the Forestry Regulations we published some time ago.

THE JAPAN TIMES.

'FAIS CE QUE DOIS; ADVIENNE QUE POURRA.'

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the JAPAN TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Manuscripts found unsuitable for our columns will be carefully returned to the writers.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1878.

BIRTH.

On the 24th inst., at No. 61, Main Street, the wife of A. T. WATSON, of a son.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FRIDAY EVENING, June 28 1878.

THE *Orissa*, with the London mail of May 10th, arrived last Saturday as we were going to press. A mail from Hakodate and the *City of Tokio* from Hongkong are the only other mail arrivals during the week; the latter vessel is advertised to sail for San Francisco at 3 p.m. on Monday next. The *Tanis* with a London mail of May 17th, left Hongkong for this on the 23th inst.

The *Volga* left on Wednesday morning last, with a mail due in London, August 19th. An outward Shanghai and way-ports and a Hakodate steamer, completes our mail intelligence.

We have to note the fastest run on record from Hongkong to this port, which was made by the *City of Tokio* on her last trip; the passage between the two ports, 1,613 miles, was made in four days, nineteen hours and twenty three minutes, thus beating the previous best run (which was made by her sister ship the *City of Peking* in four days, twenty-one hours and thirty-five minutes) by two hours and twelve minutes.

H. E. Dr. Elmore, Peruvian Envoy to China, Japan and Siam—and his Secretary, H. E. the Minister from China to the United States and the newly appointed Chinese Consul-General to San Francisco, and their respective suites, were passengers by the *City of Tokio*.

Our readers will be glad to hear that the P. & O. Company have not had to suffer a total loss of their fine steamship *China*. We quote in other columns, from the *Bombay Gazette*, an account of her being lifted from the bed of mud in which we left her a fortnight ago. But this must evidently have been an expensive process, as will be that of refitting her, and, coming as it does in the same half-year's accounts as the *Khedive's* collision with the *Voorwards*, it is hard on the share holders. So excellently are the vessels managed, however, of this deservedly popular Company, that accidents like these are happily rare.

The news from home is truly difficult to understand, as transmitted by the 'Baron.' In the same telegram we are told that Russia, England and Austria are agreed regarding Bulgaria—and yet that 'the concurrent attitude and understanding between England and Austria regarding Bulgaria have not attained their desired views,'—whatever such an enigmatic and involved sentence may mean. And both statements are unofficial, the former quoted from the *Times*, the latter from some other paper, or mere gossip; declaredly, at all events, unofficial. Between them is sandwiched a statement which bears the stamp of truth, and which appears to have been published officially—that Earl Beaconsfield insists on Russia withdrawing her troops from Constantinople as a *sine qua non* to the continuance of the Conference. Considering that we heard, some days ago, that they had been retired to a position some distance from Constantinople, this again is puzzling, and the Tsar's reply,—making their withdrawal conditional on administrative autonomy being granted to those Provinces south of the Balkans wherein are no Turkish troops—hardly appears like an answer, or to have anything to do with the question. The Provinces to which this would apply are those to the west, north of Greece. We can only await further developments—or the solution of this worse than acrostic puzzle in Baron Reuter's next.

A little more light, it is true, is thrown on the position by the telegrams which arrived from Hongkong by the *Tokio*, telling us as they do that the Russian forces were thought by Lord Beaconsfield 'dangerously near' the Turkish capital. And the 'agreement about Bulgaria' probably finds the key to fit it in the message that it is to be divided into two parts—that North of the Balkans to be independent, and the South autonomous;—though we confess to thinking this rather a distinction without a difference. Is South Bulgaria to remain tributary to the Porte?

In common with our countrymen all over the East, we hailed with delight Lord Beaconsfield's vigorous move of sending troops from India to the Mediterranean, and,—a fortnight or so ago,—we gave some particulars of their rapid and successful dispatch from Bombay. The last mail brings us the news that the majority of the transports had got through the Red Sea, but not, of course, without a small percentage of accident and trouble. The *Clydesdale*, a telegram from Suez informed the *Bombay Gazette*, was detained there in quarantine, having cholera on board. A very graphic letter dated Aden, May 8, from a special correspondent of that journal, draws a striking picture of the discomforts and dangers of a voyage in a ship went to sea without sufficient time for preparation. When she was taken up as a transport in Bombay, she had 500 tons of her previous cargo of coal still on board, and, this having to be got out, and a battery of horse artillery having to be got in, with all the water-tanks, stable and other fittings and other furniture of a troop-ship to be put into her—and all in six days—it may well be imagined that she went to sea in a pretty mess. Unfortunately a case or two of cholera occurred in the battery before the men were embarked, and in the belief that the change of air would check the disease, the ship was hurried to sea. Four fatal and six other cases occurred in the course of the voyage; and she had to be detained as above stated, at Suez. Two or three other vessels met with accidents, too; the *Sat. Oryth's* machinery breaking down twice, and the *Tobacco* taking fire, and subsequently having to part company in the

Red Sea with a buggalow she was towing, full of baggage horses and forage. Generally, however, all seems to have gone well.

But the excitement over, of the dispatch of these five or six thousand men, and some part of the effect of their presence in Europe having been discounted by Reuter's meagre telegrams—(for there seems little room to doubt that to their appearance was chiefly due Russia's consent, at the last moment, to submit the Treaty of San Stefano to an European Congress for endorsement or change)—now arises in the minds of Englishmen the conviction that, though Earl Beaconsfield may have saved the nation from war, and saved it with honour, he has done it by straining the prerogative of the Crown, if not violating the constitution. The subject is too large and serious a one to treat in this small type, but it is a historical fact, that the preamble of the Mutiny Act,—passed from year to year solely to assert Parliament's right to control the power of the Crown to levy troops—is simply one of the clauses of the Bill of Rights, on which our liberties rest. Also, that the order for these troops to move was sent to India the day after Parliament rose for the Easter Recess. Also that the House of Commons, some weeks before, had voted Six Millions, just as a mark of confidence, without any distinct information as to what was to be done with the money. The 'value of these observations lies in the application of 'em.' If the Earl brings us triumphantly out of Congress without war, and without disgrace, and yet with British interests safe and European peace secure, (large 'ifs') he will get his Act of Indemnity passed without trouble; if he fail, few Ministers, we should imagine, will have been nearer impeachment, in these days when impeachments are rare. The question, we see, has been debated in the Lower House, on a motion of Lord Hartington's, and the Government, treating this as a vote of want of confidence, of course got a majority—349 to 226. But this was very different to the vote on the division on the Address, thanking the Queen for calling out the reserves—319 to 64—and the difference is most significant. In the Lords, the Earl simply declined to defend his policy at all—on the ground that what he had done required to be done as a move in his general policy—and the Lords appear to have accepted his dictum. This is all very well for Englishmen who know their country and their countrymen, and are familiar with the working of Parliamentary institutions; but to other people, such a division in the Lower House on such a motion must necessarily encourage the belief that England is 'a house divided against itself'—and it seems possible that much of the good done by the move of the troops may be neutralized by the harm done by the vote.

It is simply impossible to avoid straying into European politics at such an exciting time as this,—resolve against the bad practice as we may.

Affairs remain pretty quiet here. A rumour was mentioned by one of our daily contemporaries that Ito Hirobumi was fired at while walking in his garden and also that an attempt had been made to assassinate Watanabe. The *Herald* states that the circumstances were reported to it by official informants, who should know, but does not vouch for the truth of the statements. We are in a position to state that, happily, the first rumour at least has no foundation in fact; nor have we the slightest belief in the other. Reports of this nature are invariably rife after the occurrence of such a deed as that which deprived the Mikado, last month, of the 'right arm of his government.'

If there be any truth in the rumour which has been so current lately that a conspiracy to rebel against the Government has been lately discovered in Tosa, which accounts for the numerous arrests of Tosa men, the secret has been better kept than is usual in Japan. That a number of arrests have been made is true enough, but they are, we are assured, all for complicity with the Satsuma rising, and in no way connected with any new plot. Had Saigo succeeded in escaping from Kiushiu to the main land, he would have been welcomed with open arms by the Tosa men. This is certain now, as it was strongly suspected at the time; and Government is merely making a few arrests on this old account, on proofs which have been for a long time in its hands. We are glad to be able to say that there is not a word of truth in the rumour of Goto Shojiro's complicity with this plot, and consequent arrest. He has not been in Tosa for years and has quite cut himself loose from provincial politics. That trouble of some sort, however, is feared by the government is clear from the assembly of war lords very like a council of war in Osaka in the middle of the month, at which Generals Tani, Mura, and Shijo, each in charge of a northern division, and the Governor of Kioto, Sakaye, Higo, and Osaka, were all present to confer with the War Minister, whose departure for that city we noticed last week. Another significant fact is that the *Force* of Kuwanaoto now always moves under military escort.

The progress of the Press in this country is evidenced by a fact mentioned by a native paper, that nearly a hundred applications for licenses to publish have been made since the beginning of the year, of which two thirds have been granted. Another use of paper is as well understood and practised: over a hundred National Banks, all issuing paper money of their own, are now in existence. No wonder that the Printing bureau is in a flourishing condition and requires so large a plant as that described by the *Japan Herald* a few weeks ago.

We are extremely sorry to note, in two or three of our native contemporaries, the statement that cholera has reappeared in Tokio. Two cases are reported, but as no diagnosis has been made by any foreign physician, we may hope that green fruit is at the bottom of the business. Nevertheless, the warning we published two or three weeks ago, respecting the drainage of foreign owned compounds, ought not to be neglected.

From China we have a variety of interesting news, had we space to chronicle them. When an ambitious thought, which has long been waiting to be vivified into action, comes to birth, our limits will not be so confined. Meanwhile we must merely give mention to the fact that the text of a Convention between Spain and China has been published, whereby Chinese labour is permitted to be used in Cuba, and proper guarantees given for the protection of the labourers; and that Embassies from Peking to the United States, Spain and Peru, are on the point of being despatched, thus doubling the diplomatic staff of China abroad, her Legations being situate at present in no other capital cities than those of London, Berlin and Tokio. The armament of Hongkong has been completed and Volunteer Artillery-men are busy drilling to qualify themselves to aid in the defence of the island in case of need. We have not heard of the arrival of the *Shannon* there, but she must be now in the harbour. The *Charybdis* is in Hongkong, the *Nassau* left, it was believed, for this port, on the 17th inst. The *Iron Duke* is expected out, to relieve the *Audacious*, about the end of September and the *Curlew* and *Thistle* are ordered home at once. The Tea-Race seems to lie between the *Glenagles*, the *Loudoun Castle*, the *Glenartney* and *Ocean King*. The first has a long lead, having got away from Woosung fifty-two hours ahead of the *Loudoun Castle*, and having gained something on her in the run to Singapore. The last pair got away nearly together, on the 26th ult. arriving at Singapore, on the 5th and 6th inst. respectively, two and three days after the second, the *Loudoun Castle*. There appears to be more than enough excitement in China about this race and a great deal of gambling, double-selling lotteries, &c. This may be reprehensible, but one thing is quite certain,—that the contest does have the effect of steadily improving the build and speed of the vessels, as may be seen from the following record of the performances of the the winners of the last eight years' races.

1870	Erl King	61 days.
1871	Enterprise	56 "
1872	Deccan	50 "
1873	Venetia	50 "
1874	Glenartney	49 "
1875	Glenartney	46 "
1876	Glenartney	46 "
1877	Loudoun Castle	41 "

It will be seen that the *Loudoun Castle* is the present 'holder of the blue ribbon.'

Our own aquatic racing here has been of a less exciting character. Though the Regatta was uncomfortably prolonged, the members of the Club, at least, appear not to have had enough of it, for a match was organized for Wednesday last which, though not a new thing, produced a new result. For several years, six men have essayed to row the six-oared gig, and in her to beat a four-oared crew in one of the other boats. The first challenge came from the six-oar, to row a crew of four in the light London boat; and it was expected that the four challenged would not sit the boat. Since then the match has been made between six of the biggest—kakophonically called the 'beefiest' men, against a crew in one of the Canton-built fours; and skill has always beaten 'beef.' The race has, therefore, come to be thought annually a four-gone conclusion. But this year, two crews were picked, with a view to test the merits of the boats. The six-oar is a wide-beamed, in-rigged boat, which—in old days—manned by Japanese *scowls*, won a reputation for invincibility against aught but gold-bought pertily: the four-oar is one of the out-rigged, open cutters so well known as racing boats in the harbours of China and Japan. A close race was expected this time; the crew of the six being composed of stronger men, though the advantage was not thought more than enough to compensate for the bulk of the boat. The four was manned by no mean crew, their metal having

been proved in many a race in this bay. In weight, the crews averaged 11st. 1lb and 10st. 5lb. per man respectively. To the surprise of all, the four-oar made no show. The crews started at an even stroke, each rowing 30 per minute, and after the third stroke, the six began to draw away, and in 300 yards, had drawn clear. The stroke of the leading boat was then slowed down to 28, but still the boat continued to gain, and the four-oared crew falling to pieces, the race was finally won by 47 seconds; as, finding all chance of victory gone, the four-oar was not persevered with after the first half-mile. But under no circumstances should they have succumbed so easily. It is difficult to account for so hollow a victory of one scratch crew over another, pitted as they were against each other under such different circumstances. We have our own theory on the matter, but as we are not at present sure that it is the correct one, we shall not yet favour our readers with it. The following gentlemen composed the crews:—

1.—J. Lilburn,	1.—C. P. Hall,
2.—T. Richmond,	2.—H. O. Jeyes,
3.—F. Boyes,	3.—A. Milsom,
4.—G. W. F. Playfair,	A. H. Dare, stroke.
5.—J. J. Dare,	H. B. Henley, cox.....3
H. C. Litchfield, stroke.	
A. H. C. Haselwood, cox...1	

We are glad to learn that the Rowing Club are not to neglect their swimming lessons; a series of matches is announced, the first thereof to be contested on July 20th. While a Champion Cup will be given for the best long distance swimmer, and suitable prizes awarded to elegant 'headers,' the claims of those who can only 'calithump' will not be neglected.

The half-yearly meeting of the Yokohama Jockey Club, which was advertised for Thursday last, at the Gaiety Theatre, not having been attended by a sufficient number of members to form a quorum, has been postponed for a week. Evidently the Rules have given a fair amount of general satisfaction, since no grievance exists to get together the small numbers necessary to make 'a house.' But we must remind our readers that this first meeting is of importance, as a statement of the present condition of the Club is to be made, and, though—according to Rule 8, any number of members,—instead of the one-fifth requisite for the original,—make a quorum at an adjourned meeting—and, therefore, the meeting will take place next Thursday, though only half-a-dozen members attend; still it is as well that there should be a good attendance, as matters of considerable interest have to be discussed.

Our local 'dry bobs' are not very active, except at lawn-tennis. Cricket appears to languish, though in such a climate as this we ought to have matches every week. Even India is ahead for us. A Parsee eleven left Bombay at the beginning of the month, we believe, on a trip to England. A gentleman of their caste, Narsay Kessowjee, pays all their expenses. The writer has a lively recollection of the beginning of Parsee cricket in Bombay, nearly twenty years ago, when it was extremely rudimentary and by no means unattended with danger to the spectators. Much progress must have been made, to justify the dispatch of an eleven home with any serious intention, but the visit shows a certain amount of pluck on the part of our Indian fellow subjects that deserves the consideration it will no doubt receive there. We are not of those enthusiasts, however, who like to see our own home games played all over the world: each country, each climate, has its appropriate pastime, and no particular good can be done, for instance, we imagine, by the attempt to naturalize such a game as cricket in India, where exposure to the sun is not much less dangerous to natives than it is to foreigners. A terrible warning against the dangers of cricket in a hot climate will of course, occur to the minds of our English readers, in the great match between Mr. Alfred Jingle and Sir Thomas Blazo when the faithful Qwanka Sambo was sacrificed to our national game.

The local Government occasionally publishes statements of accounts of monies expended in making repairs to the streets of the Foreign Settlement. We should be extremely pleased to see a few *riks* spent to put the Main street of the native town in proper order. Foreigners are mainly interested in it as being the most direct way to the Railway terminus, and as the traffic on it is considerable, it has been worn into any thing but good order, being full of ruts and holes which, as one generally passes over them in a *jirikisha* at full speed, give, to a moderately heavy man, a series of jerks which are anything but pleasant. A very small expenditure would put the street in good order and, both from foreigners and natives who have to traverse it rapidly on their way to the station, the Governor would receive very grateful acknowledgment.

"EURYDICH" RELIEF FUND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

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	dollars.	cents.
Already Advertised	628	57
Mr. Bull, E.N.	2	—
Lieut. Cumming, E.N.	4	65
Capt. Purvis, E.N.	5	—
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W. E.	10	—
T. B., Tokio	1	—
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" Pepperell, E.N.	1	50
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Yokohama, 28th June, 1878.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Qy. 8. Mr. Bramsen's interesting note on the relative values of coins in your issue of February 23th, leads me to think that he or some one else may possibly be good enough to clear up a few points which have frequently occurred to me:—

1.—Can any one say when, and under what circumstances, paper money was first issued in Japan? "Shosei" in your issue of March 9th gave a most interesting account of the Han paper money; and perhaps if there were a general issue before that, some other student may be able to do the same for it.

3.—Can any account be got of the regulations (if any) which governed coining under the feudal system? For instance, under what circumstances was permission granted to certain individuals to strike coins? This seems to have been done at various parts of the country, thus we have Musashi Ichibu, Suruga Koban, &c.

(Unanswered.)

X.

Qy. 10. Can any of your medical or other readers inform me of the recent existence of cases of poisoning resulting from the use of bread made from impure wheat: the symptoms being those described in works on Medical Jurisprudence, as arising from the presence of the *Lolium*

temulentum or Darnel grass (or other poisonous *gramineae*) viz; Gastro intestinal derangement, narcotism, vertigo and convulsions. (Unanswered.) R. N.

Qy. 11. Many of your readers, when walking towards the new cemetery, must have remarked the *tumuli*, about twelve in number, which dot the table land which lies above Ota on the one side, and the hill of Tobe on the other. These *tumuli* are religiously preserved from the spoiling of the farmer, and must have some history; are they the burying-places of heroes fallen in some old quarrel? Can any of year readers enlighten me?

(Unanswered.)

T.

Qy. 12. In Jules Verne's work, entitled "Michael Strogoff, the Courier of the Czar," occurs a paragraph which touches upon the disposal of political exiles in Siberia. Speaking of their concentration at Irkutsk, during one of the Tartar invasions, he says "some are doctors, others professors, either at the Japanese school or at the School of Navigation." One does not of course, expect absolute accuracy in a novel, but is our ingenious author not a little adrift here! I shall however be glad to know if such an institution really exists.

(Unanswered.)

M.

Qy. 13. The perusal of Dr. Doenitz's interesting paper on Cremation in your issue of June 15, suggests one or two questions which those better versed than myself in Japanese history, as well as in the history of this practice in Japan may be able to answer.

1. Is the rapid progress which Cremation is said to have made, wholly due to Buddhism? It seems to me that this can hardly be the case, because Buddhism was introduced about 552 A.D., and Cremation not, it seems, until nearly a century and a half after. Moreover, as we see in China, Buddhism can take a firm hold on a country which does not practice Cremation at all;—and it was not until about 500 years after its introduction that it was made compulsory on the followers of the Monto sect.

2. The reason assigned in Dr. Doenitz's paper for the cessation of the practice of burning the bodies of the Emperors viz: the representations of a fishmonger, although no doubt satisfactory to the native mind, will hardly recommend itself to an European. Can any one give the real reason?

3. When the practice was wholly prohibited a few years ago, was any reason given for this prohibition, or for its subsequent speedy renewal?

In his work on Japan p—437, Mr. Griffis after a description *mors suo* of the lotus flower, says:—"As the mortal body of the believer approaches the Cremation house, that the borrowed elements of his body may be liberated from their fleshly prison and returned to their primordial earth and air, a stone carved to represent a lotus-flower receives the bier." Further on, at page 513, he says that the process occupies only two hours, and that nothing revolting is visible. Having myself been present at about half a dozen cremations in one or other of the places set apart for this purpose in Tôkiô, I can bear witness to the correctness of Dr. Doenitz's assertion that it occupies seven or eight hours; and I must confess to never having seen anything at all resembling a stone-lotus on the premises. It would be interesting to know whether in the interior (Mr. Griffis is describing the process as seen at Fukui in Echizen) different arrangements are made to those in Tôkiô, where the process is certainly most revolting to ordinary individuals.

In the subsequent short conversation on Dr. Doenitz's paper, some doubt was thrown on the possibility of producing the desired result by such simple means. In Eassie's very interesting work on Cremation, an account is given of the manner in which it is at present performed among the poor in India, and the process seems quite as simple as that employed in Japan. It is said however to cost in the neighbourhood of Poonah about 25s., whereas in Japan the lowest class costs only 3s. Among the North American Indians also the process seems even simpler than in Japan.

The practice of removing the intestines mentioned by one of the sneakers, is not at all uncommon. In the work above referred to, an extract is given from an article in Lippincott's Magazine, the author of which observes that

even among the better classes in Siam the intestines are removed from the corpse before cremation is performed.

If I had not already been wanting to know so much, I should have asked some of our Japanese scholars to be good enough to tell us whether there are traces in Japanese literature of any other mode of disposing of the dead here besides interment and cremation. The Ainos sometimes practice, I believe, dessication.

Y.

THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN OF PAO.

A TALE FROM THE HISTORY OF CHINA IN THE 8TH CENTURY BEFORE CHRIST.

TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE BY C. ARENDT.

CHAPTER II. THE EMPEROR HSUAN.

THE EMPEROR YU. THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN OF PAO.
THE GAME WITH THE WOLF'S SMOKE.

WE HAVE related how the souls of Tu-po and Tso-ju appeared to Hsüan-wang during his hunting expedition in the Eastern plains, and how he was forced to return to his palace ill. As soon as he closed his eyes, he fancied he saw Tupo and Tsoju before him, and he knew right well that he would never recover. He refused to take medicine, and after three days, his illness grew more serious.

At this time the Duke of Chou was in retirement and Chung-shan-fu was dead; Hsüan-wang therefore called the gray-headed Yin-chi-fu and the old Shao-h'u to him, in order to entrust them with the charge of the heir to the throne.

The two men came to the bedside, threw themselves on the earth and greeted the Emperor. The latter ordered the eunuchs to raise him in the bed, and leaning on the pillow of embroidered silk commenced:—

"Relying in the wisdom of my true servants, I have reigned for six and forty years. I carried my victorious arms to the south and the north, and I gave peace to the four seas (1). I am now sinking under a sudden illness. My son, Kung-Nieh, who inherits the throne, is already of age, but his mind is not yet mature. In you, my faithful servants, I place my trust that you will help him in the task of governing, so that the glory of the Empire may not fade."

The two bowed their heads to the earth, took the order, and left the palace. At the door they met the Imperial Astrologer Poyang-fu, and Shao-h'u said to him privately:—"When I heard the song of the children I said that a misfortune by means of bows and arrows, hung over the country. The Emperor has now seen the souls of his victims shoot at him with a red bow and arrow. What I said has been accomplished. The Emperor will certainly never rise again from that bed."

Poyang-fu replied

"I questioned the stars last night, and saw Yao-hsing (i. e. the star of demoniac influence) stand in the centre of Tszewei.* Greater complications threaten the land. It is not yet finished with the death of the Emperor."

Hereupon Yin-chi-fu said "Man is subject to the will of heaven, but man can with a strong will force heaven. If we think on nothing but the ways of Providence, and quite forget the affairs of earth, then the three Imperial Councillors, and the six Ministers may as well resign their offices."

The three then separated.

Soon after, when the crowd of officials thronged round the door of the palace to inquire about the health of the Emperor, and heard that His Majesty's condition was very critical, they did not venture at first to return to their home. And indeed the Emperor died the same night. The Empress Chiang immediately issued an edict calling to her the old statesmen Yin-chi-fu, and Shao-h'u, who had been intrusted by the late Emperor with the care of the heir to the throne, and putting them over all the officials, directed them to see to the conduct of the mourning ceremonies, and of the installation of the young prince.

Then the Crown-prince Kung-Nieh ascended the throne on the coffin of his father. He is known in history as Yu-

(1) The four seas i. e. the world.

* A constellation which stands in especial relation to the Emperor]

wang (782-761 B. C.) The new Emperor proclaimed soon after that the next year was to be regarded as the first of his reign. His wife, daughter of the Viscount of Shên(1) became Empress, and one of her two sons named Ichu was named successor to the throne. The father of the Empress, the Viscount of Shên, was promoted in rank and received the title of Count of Shên.

The Imperial historiographer has celebrated the Emperor Hsüan in the following verses:—

"Great was the Emperor Hsüan
His fame filled the earth
The most distant lands feared his might.
He overthrew anarchy, and established order in the land
Chung-shan-fu and the Empress Chiang
Stood loyally by his side in the foreign and domestic affairs of the land.
Thus he knew how to repair the errors of his father, and to renew the glory of his house. (2)

The Empress Chiang was so grieved at the death of her husband that she soon after died also. The Emperor Yu was cruel, merciless and unprincipled. Even during the period of mourning for his father, he associated with a crowd of debauchees, and ate meat and drank wine, without showing the slightest signs of grief. After the death of the Empress Chiang he knew no fear or restraint any more, but gave himself up completely to the pleasures of bad music and sensual gratifications. He cared nothing for government. The Count of Shên frequently made representations to him on this account, but as he was not listened to, he returned to his own land of Shên.

The end of the glory of the Western Chou was approaching. The old and faithful servants Yin-chi-fu, Shao-h'u and others died off one after the other. After their deaths the Emperor appointed the Duke of Kuo, the Duke of Chai, and a son of Yin-chi-fu, named Yin-ch'u to be his Councillors(3). These three men were intriguers and flatterers, office-seekers, covetous, and ready to do whatever the Emperor willed. The single good man at Court then was the Viscount of Chêng, (4) named Yo. He was then head of the department of worship and ceremonies, but the Emperor cared little for him.

One day, as the Emperor was holding an audience, news came from the Governor of Ch'ishan that earthquakes had taken place on one and the same day at the three rivers Ching, Ho and Lo.

"The fall of mountains and the quaking of the earth" said the Emperor Yu, laughing, "are every day occurrences, why is it necessary to inform me of them?" Having said this, he returned to the palace. But the Imperial Astrologer Poyang-fu took the Imperial Councillor Chaoshu-tai by the hand and said, sighing:

"The three rivers Ching, Ho and Lo rise in the mountains of Chi, and this earthquake means something. In olden times the rivers I and Lo dried up, and the Hsia dynasty fell; the river Ho dried up, and the Shang dynasty fell. Now an earthquake takes place on the banks of all three rivers; in consequence of this the springs of all three will be obstructed, the rivers will dry up, and the mountain will collapse. In mount Ch'i (5) is the place where Prince T'ai had his residence. (6) If this mountain falls in, misfortune must come on the house of Chou."

"If," replied Chaoshu-tai, "misfortune hangs over the land, tell us when it will come on."

(1) Shên is a small principality in the southern part of the present Honan.

(2) The European reader perhaps does not find these encomiums to be accordance with what he has read above of Hsuean-wang. It must however be remembered that the author of the "History of the Principalities" begins first with the 39th year of the Emperor Hsuean, and only recounts the latter and least brilliant years of his reign. The most essential point is, that Hsuean-wang knew how to keep order among the feudal princes.

(3) There were at this time three councillors; they were called the "three Kung" (San Kung).

(4) Cheng was the name of a principality of which we shall afterwards hear more. It lay in the present Honan.

(5) Ch'ishan, that is the neighbourhood of Mount Chi. It was the birthplace of the Chou dynasty. Wenwang, the father of Wuwang, the founder of the dynasty, lived there. Ch'ishan lay in the South-western part of the present Shensi.

(6) The prince of T'ai or T'aiwang was the ancestor of the house of Chou.

Poyang-fu raised his ten fingers in the air and said: "It will not keep away for more than ten years."

"How can you know that?" asked Chaoshu-tai? When "the cup of good is full" said Poyang-fu, then come blessing. When the cup of evil is full, then comes misfortune. Ten is the complete number."

"The Son of Heaven (1)" cried Chaoshu-tai "cares nought for government, and worthless persons fill the highest offices. My duty however is to speak. I will do my duty and remonstrate with the Emperor in person."

"My only fear" said Poyang-fu "is that your words will have no result."

Meantime the long private consultation of both had attracted the attention of the bystanders, and news of it was carried to the Duke Shih-fu of Ko (2). Shih-fu feared immediately that Chaoshu-tai would make representations to the Emperor, and expose his worthlessness. He betook himself therefore at once to the palace and informed the Emperor of the private consultation of Poyang-fu with Chaoshu-tai, and added that they irritated the people by calumniating the Court.

The Emperor said:—

"When idiots converse about affairs of state it is of no more importance than when vapour ascends from the heath. There is no necessity for taking any notice of it."

On the other hand, Chaoshu-tai, animated by a noble zeal for duty, desired often to advise the Emperor, but he found no opportunity for so doing.

After some days a memorial came from the governor of Ch'ishan saying that all three rivers were dried up, and that a landslip in which a great number of people were destroyed, had occurred. Yuwang troubled himself little about all this, but ordered some more maidens to be procured for his seraglio. The Chaoshu-tai presented a written memorial in which he said: "Mountains collapse and rivers dry up—the bowels of the earth are agitated—heights fall and plains quake—these are all evil omens for the land. The neighbourhood of Mount Ch'i is the birthplace of the Imperial house; when this mountain falls down in a single day it is no unimportant matter. If now pains are taken with the government of the country, care applied for the welfare of the people, and good men chosen for Counsellors, we may still hope that the threatened dangers will be removed. But what can happen when the Emperor seeks, not for good men, but for beautiful girls."

Upon this Ko-shih-fu said "It is now a long time since T'eng-H'ao was chosen for the permanent Capital of the land. The neighbourhood of mount Ch'i is no more to us now than old shoes which have been cast away. What has Ch'ishan to do with us? Chaoshu-tai has never shewn the Emperor due reverence, and now he seeks pretexts to spread his calumnies abroad. I hope that my prince will not allow this to pass."

"Shih-fu is right" said the Emperor.

Chaoshu-tai was therefore deposed from office and banished from the city. He sighed and said: "People are careful not to enter a country which is going to ruin; in a state where anarchy rules, people will not reside. I desire not to await in inaction the time when wheat will grow where now the brilliant capital of the house of Chou is."

Saying this, he went to the land of Tsin where his descendant attained high honours. Chao-tun was descended from him, subsequently the families of Chao and H'an separated in the land of Tsin, when they were broken up into three parts, and became Chu'hou (feudal princes),

"The loyal servants of the Crown fleeing from anarchy went first towards the north. (3) Later, when misfortune came on people went towards the east. From the most ancient times it has been the duty of the sovereign to esteem and honour his faithful servants; for, when good men flee away, the land becomes destitute."

Now it came to pass that just at this time the Councillor of State Pao-hsiang (4) came from Pao-ch'eng to the capital.

(1) That is, the Emperor.

(2) Shih-fu is the name of the Duke of Ko, and he is therefore called farther on Shih-fu, "the duke of Ko," and also Ko-shih-fu. He was, as already mentioned, one of the three counsellors of the Emperor Yu.

(3) Tu-po's son also went to the land of Tsin, which lay north of the capital.

(4) Pao-hsiang i.e. Hsiang of Pao. His name was Hsiang, Pao was the possession from which he derived his revenue. Pao was the name of the neighbourhood of Pao-ch'eng.

When he heard of the banishment of Chao-shu-tai, he made representations to the Emperor and said:

"If my prince heeds not the warnings of Heaven, and banishes his faithful servants, it will be evil with the Empire, and the guardian deities will turn their backs in the land."

The Emperor grew wrath at this, and threw Pao-hsiang into prison. Henceforth no one dared remonstrate with the Emperor, and good and patriotic men gave up all hope of a return to a better state of things.

We will now however turn to something else.

As related in the last chapter, the man who had sold the bows of mulberry and the quivers of Chi, went to Pao with the child whom he had taken from the water, in his bosom. It befell now that he wanted milk for the child; and it happened fortunately that the wife of a certain Sze-Ta had just given birth to a girl which had died immediately. The bow-seller therefore presented a few pieces of cotton cloth and the like, and begged her to adopt and rear the infant. The child consequently received the name of Pao-sze.

Pao-sze grew up, and when she was only fourteen years of age, she made an impression as if she were sixteen or seventeen, and looked like a fully grown girl. She had large eyes, and fine eyebrows, red lips and white teeth; her hair resembled a black cloud, her fingers were like jewels artistically cut. She resembled a flower, her face was lovely as the moon, and her beauty was sufficient to bring ruin on lands and cities. But Sze-Ta lived in the country, and Pao-sze was still young in years, and so it was that in spite of her enchanting loveliness, she was still unmarried.

Now it happened that one day the son of Pao-hsiang named H'ung-Tê went into the country to collect the land rents. By chance Pao-Szê stood just before her door drawing water, and, although her costume was that of a peasant, it could not conceal her unequalled natural loveliness. H'ung-tê was excessively astonished to discover such striking beauty in such a miserable village. He then remembered how his father was now three years in prison, and reflected on what might occur if he made a present of this girl to the Son of Heaven. He might in this way perhaps obtain pardon for his father. He enquired in the neighbourhood about the relatives of the maiden, and on his return home said to his mother:—

"My father's only crime is that he made representations without any reserve to the Emperor. That is no unpardonable sin. Now the Son of Heaven is given up to sensuality and is unprincipled; he therefore wants to collect as many beautiful maidens as possible in his seraglio. The daughter of Szê-ta is of a most unusual and perfect beauty. If we purchase her, whatever it may cost, and make her a present to the Emperor, the result may be that my father would be released from prison."

"If this plan" said the mother "could really be set going, I should not care about the price. Let it cost what it will,—but you had better lose no time."

So H'ung-tê betook himself in person to Sze's house and there agreed with Sze-ta for a price of three hundred pieces of cloth and silk. After he had purchased Pao-Szê in this manner, he took her home with him, washed her in sweet-smelling scents, fed her with the finest food, dressed her in the most magnificent clothes, and instructed her in the usages of good society and then went with her to H'ao-ching. Having arrived there, he brought presents of money to the Duke of Ko, and moved him to say to the Emperor:

"Pao-hsiang himself now sees his offence, and knows well that he has deserved death 10,000 times. His son H'ung-Tê, impelled by filial love, and as an atonement for his father's sin, has brought a beautiful maiden named Pao-sze to the town, whom he wishes to present to your Majesty, in the hope of obtaining pardon for his father."

When Yu-wang heard this he ordered Pao-sze to be brought immediately before him. After the formalities of greeting were over, Yu-wang look steadfastly at her, and lo! the beauty of her features, and the grace of her form were such as he had never yet seen; and when she raised her lovely eyes the Emperor felt as though rays of light were shining on him.

The Emperor rejoiced exceedingly, because although beautiful girls were brought to him from all the four quarters of heaven, yet not one of them approached Pao-sze.

Without informing the Empress of the new acquisition, (1) Yu-wang kept Pao-sze there and gave her a special pavilion. At the same time he issued an edict releasing Pao-hsiang from prison, and reinstating him in his previous office.

From thenceforth Yu-wang and Pao-sze were inseparable; they sat side by side and stood up shoulder to shoulder; when they drank they exchanged glasses; when they ate they did so from the same dish and plate. For ten days in succession the Emperor held no audience, the officials who had crowded round the door of the hall of audience did not get a sight of the face of the Emperor, and went sighing back to their homes.

This occurred in the fourth year (778 B. C.) of the Emperor Yu. Referring to this a certain poem says:—

"He plucked a beautiful flower called 'wonderful fragrance'; (2) hempen cloth and thorns have suddenly become the bedfellows of the Emperor. (3) It occurs every day that the Emperor is sensual. But alas! ruin lurks under the dragon's saliva."

In a word Yu-wang did not separate himself for a moment from Pao-sze. He was constantly with her in the "Jewelled Chamber." (4) Three months passed by in this manner, and during the whole time he did not once enter the Chamber of the Empress Shên H'ou.

At last Shên H'ou heard the whole story. Beside herself with rage, she forced her way one day with several court ladies without any ceremony into the "Jewelled Chamber" and found the Emperor with Pao-sze sitting in his lap. As the Empress entered, Pao-sze did not rise for an instant to approach and greet her. Shên H'ou could not stand this, and broke out: "What is this, what common slave has forced her way in here to pollute the palace?" Yu-wang fearing that the Empress might commit some act of violence, stood before Pao-sze to protect her, and replied for her "This is a girl who has lately come for the Seraglio; her rank has not yet been fixed, and therefore I have not presented her to you. You need not be angry." Shên H'ou gave vent to her feelings once more in reproaches, and went away in a rage.

Pao-sze said "Who was that, then?" The Emperor said:—"That was the Empress. You can pay her a visit to-morrow."

Pao-sze fell into thought, and was silent. On the following day however she did not go to the Empress.

The Empress Shên sat deeply troubled in her chamber. The Crown Prince Ichu knelt down before her, and said:

"My mother, you are the mistress of the seraglios; how then can you still have trouble in such an exalted position?"

The Empress replied:

"Your father has given all his love and favour to Pao-sze, and forgets the difference between a lawful wife and a concubine. If this woman's power be not destroyed, you and I will soon be forced out of the palace."

She then told the Crown Prince how Pao-sze had not yet paid her a visit, nor had she stood up in her presence; and while she related this, tears unconsciously fell from her eyes.

The Crown Prince said: "I will soon correct this. To-morrow is the first day of the new month and my Imperial father must hold an audience. You can then send a crowd of servants to the Jewelled Chamber, to tear the flowers which are there, and to allure the worthless slave from the Pavilion. I will then chastise her before your eyes to appease your anger. If my father becomes angry about it, every thing will fall on me, and you will be blameless."

The Empress said: "Do not be too hasty, my son! We must have patience and think once more of the matter."

The Crown Prince left the palace in great anger, and another night passed away.

(1) That the Emperor should take a new concubine is according to Chinese ideas, quite regular, and the Empress can do nothing against it for herself. It was however a violation of etiquette to take Pao-sze into the seraglio without having first mentioned it to the Empress; for as we have already seen in the first chapter, the Empress was head of the six seraglios.

(2) Literally: "Fragrance distributed over the whole land."

(3) "Hempen cloth and thorns" an abbreviation for "wearing an underdress of hempen cloth, and a thorn for a hair pin" that is, a girl of the lower classes.

(4) The name of the pavilion mentioned above.

Next morning Yu-wang betook himself to the hall of audience, and all the officials made their appearance to congratulate him on the first of a new month.

The Crown Prince then sent a number of the servants of the palace to the Jewelled Chamber who according to his orders began to pluck the flowers in the garden beneath and to put it in disorder. Another crowd of servants hastened in from the other side and said to them; "These flowers were planted by the Emperor specially for the Empress Pao; he looks at them frequently himself, and if you put them in disorder you will be committing no small offence."

The other servants answered:

"We have received distinct orders from the Eastern Palace (1) to do this, and to pluck flowers for the lawful Empress in the Chief Palace. Who dare prevent us then?"

Both parties came to hot words, and Pao-fe (2) hearing the noise came out to see what it was. The anger which she felt, was about to break out, when the Crown Prince came up unexpectedly. Pao-fe was quite unprepared for it. The Crown Prince stood like a deadly enemy before her, and looking at her angrily, took a step closer, and seizing her hair cried out:

"Who are you then, woman without name or rank, that you venture to take the title of 'Empress,' and to look down on other people. I will shew you to-day who I am."

With these words he closed his fist and struck her. He had hardly struck her twice, when the servants of the palace, who feared that the Emperor would be enraged because of this affair, all knelt down, and with their heads on the ground cried out.

"O Imperial Prince! Show mercy! Think of the Emperor!"

The Crown Prince who was afraid that he would finally cause Pao-fe's death stopped his blows. Pao-fe full of shame and oppressed with pain, returned to her chamber. She understood perfectly that the Crown Prince wished to revenge his mother, and tears flowed from her eyes. The servants consoled her, and said:

"Grieve not, lady, the Emperor will soon take care of the rest."

The sound of these words had not yet died away when Yu-wang, the audience being finished, entered the chamber: and when he saw Pao-fe with disordered hair and in tears he enquired why she was not yet combed and dressed. Pao-fe caught the sleeve of his mantle and weepingly said:—

"The Crown Prince came this morning to my Pavilion with a crowd of servants and plucked the flowers. As soon as he saw me, who have never yet done him any injury, he commenced to upbraid and beat me. If the court ladies had not begged him to desist, he might have taken my life. I implore your Majesty to assist me!"

When she had said this, she sobbed and wept bitterly without ceasing. Yu-wang understood the whole affair immediately, and said:—

"All this has occurred because you did not visit his mother. This did not originate with the Crown Prince, he was incited to it by the Empress. You would be wrong to feel angry with him."

"The Crown Prince" replied Pao-fe "hates me because of his mother. He endeavours to take away my life. If I, a single female, should die, it would not be of much consequence. But since I have received your Majesty's love I have for two months carried its fruit in my bosom; my life is that of two; I beg to be allowed to leave the palace, so that the lives of mother and child may no longer be exposed to danger."

Yu-wang entreated her to set her mind at rest, as he had power to punish.

The same day an Imperial edict to the following effect appeared:

"The Crown Prince Ichu is insolent, unprincipled and disobedient: he is therefore banished to the land of Shen to enjoy there the instruction of the Count of Shen. The Prince's tutors have not shown themselves fit for the

(1) The Crown Prince lived in the Eastern palace, and was therefore called by this name. In a similar manner the lawful Empress was called "The Chief Palace" after her residence.

(2) Fe is the title of concubines of the higher rank in the Imperial seraglio.

task committed to them, and therefore at the same time deposed from their offices."

The Crown Prince desired to go at once to the Emperor, and justify himself, but the latter had already given orders to the guards at the gate not to admit him; there was therefore nothing for him to do but to seat himself in the carriage and go to the land of Shen.

As the Crown Prince did not come to tell his mother, she ordered her servants to inquire about him, and then learned for the first time that he had gone into exile to the land of Shen. One cannot clap without two hands; (1) and she could do nothing but day after day murmur against her spouse and think on her son; so her days were spent in weeping.

Meantime Pao-fé, after the child had been in her bosom for ten months, (2) bore a son which Yuwang loved as a jewel. He gave the child the name of Po-fu, and frequently thought of declaring him heir to the throne in place of Ichin. But as he had no plausible ground for doing so, he was in despair as how he could bring it about. Ko-shih-fu guessed correctly what was in the Emperor's mind, and consulted with Yinch'iu. Both men soon placed themselves in communication with Pao-sze, and said to her.

"As the Crown Prince is exiled it is evident that Po-fu must become heir to the throne. If you, exalted lady, entreat your husband in the intimate hours of love, while we both use our best endeavours in the Council, it would be folly to have a doubt of the successful issue of our efforts."

Pao-sze rejoiced and said.

"I leave myself entirely to you two worthy men! If Po-fu ascends the throne he will divide the rule of the world with you both."

Henceforth Pao-sze secretly commissioned her trusty servants, to lurk day and night about the Empress Shen-H'ou, and see whether they could not catch her doing something wrong; both inside and outside the apartments of the Empress Sze placed ears and eyes, so that she knew of every breath of wind, and of the movement of every blade of grass.

Meantime the Empress sat alone in her chamber and wept the whole day. An old female servant of the palace however, who understood the grief of the Empress, knelt down and said.

"Exalted lady! You constantly cherish a longing for the Prince, and therefore you should write a letter, and send it secretly to the land of Shen you should request the Prince in it to implore the forgiveness of the Emperor. Perhaps the latter will be appeased, and recall the Prince. The long separation between mother and son will then be put to an end."

"What you say" replied Shen-H'ou "is very pleasant; but how am I to send the letter."

The servant replied:

"My mother, the old Wen, is skilled in the cure of diseases. You can be ill, and putting yourself into her hands under this pretence, give her the letter, which my elder brother can convey to its destination. It must succeed in this way."

Hereupon Shen-H'ou went in and wrote a letter, in which she said something to this effect:

"The son of Heaven is unprincipled, he prefers an ill-looking slave, and has separated mother and son. This ill-looking slave has now borne a son, and the Emperor has in consequence increased his favour towards her. Let you, my son, sue for pardon to the Emperor, acknowledge your guilt, and feign sorrow; if Heaven so order it that you return to Court, when we are face to face we can think of further steps."

After the letter was written she gave out that she was ill, took to her bed, and called the old Wen.

Pao-fe received information of this immediately. "Aha!" said she "she has some object, a letter or something of that sort. As the old Wen is leaving the palace, she must be searched, and then it will soon be shewn what is the matter."

Meantime old Wen came to the Chief Palace. The old

(1) Literally: "It is difficult to clap with one hand," a Chinese proverb meaning that one can commence nothing when they stand completely alone.

(2) The Chinese count ten months as the period of pregnancy.

servant, her daughter, had previously instructed her. Shen-H'ou placing herself as if she wished her pulse felt, brought the letter from under the pillow, and impressed on the old woman that it must be carried day and night without delay to the land of Shen. At the same time she presented the woman with two pieces of the finest silk. Wen put the letter in her bosom and went out of the palace very well satisfied with herself and holding the silk open in her hand. She was stopped by the Eunuchs who held watch there, and asked where she got the silk. The old woman replied: "I have examined the illness of the Empress, and have received this in return." The Eunuchs said "Have you nothing else with you;" she replied no, and the others were about to let her pass, when one of the servants said, "would it not be better to examine her closely?" She was immediately led back in a high state of disquietude and confusion, which caused the Eunuchs to suspect something and to insist on an examination. The whole crowd of servants came around, and examined and tore her clothes, so that very soon the corner of a letter appeared. They took possession of the letter of the Empress Shen-H'ou, and brought the woman together with the letter without delay to the Jewelled Chamber of Pao-fe. Pao-fe opened and read the letter: she was very angry, and ordered them to put old Wen in a solitary chamber, and to permit no one under any circumstances to have any communication with her. She then took the two pieces of silk which old Wen carried, and cut and tore them into a thousand pieces. When, soon after, Yu-wang entered the Pavillion and saw the torn silk, he asked what it all meant. Pao-fe replied with tears in her eyes.

"I have entered the palace and received your favour only for my own misfortune; for the jealousy of the Empress has already excited the Chief Seraglio. Again it is only to my own misfortune that I have given birth to a son, who has only increased her jealousy. See, the Empress has written a letter to the Crown Prince, at the end of which she speaks of further plans! I am sure she is aiming at my life and at that of my son. I implore you to assist me!"

With these words she handed the letter to the Emperor. Yu-wang recognized the handwriting of Shen-H'ou and asked who the bearer of the letter was. "The old Wen;" said Pao-fe "she is here in custody."

Yu-wang ordered the old woman to be dragged before him, drew his sword, and before she could utter a word cut her in two pieces. The "old man with the Beard" has a poem on this occurrence:—

"Before the letter was sent, you stained your shining sword with innocent blood. If people enquire how the Crown Prince subsequently came to his right, the highest service must be attributed to the old Wen."

The following night Pao-fe overwhelmed the Emperor Yu with caresses, and said:

"My life and that of my son lie in the hands of the Crown Prince." "But I am here still" said Yu-wang, "why need you trouble yourself about the Crown Prince?"

Pao-sze said:

"After the thousand autumns and ten thousand years, my (1) Imperial husband, it cannot be otherwise than that the Crown Prince ascends the throne. The Empress now sits day and night murmuring and calling down maledictions on us. If the power one day should come into her hands, and those of her son, Po-fu and I would not find a few feet of earth for a grave after our deaths."

Saying this, she commenced again to sob and weep bitterly.

Yu-wang said:

"I should be glad to degrade the Empress and the crown Prince from their ranks, and to make you lawful Empress and Po-fu Crown Prince; but I fear that the Ministers and officers would put themselves against it. What can I do then?"

"It is the rule" said Pao-fe "that the Ministers obey the Prince. It is folly for the Prince to obey his Ministers. My husband should impress this on the Ministers and then hear what they have to reply to it."

Yu-wang replied that she was certainly right; and the same night Pao-fe sent a trusty messenger to Ko-shih-fu and Yin-ch'iu instructing them what they should say at the audience the following morning.

(1) i.e. "After your death."

The following day at the early audience, the Emperor at the conclusion of the formalities called the Ministers to him and said "when the Empress is jealous, has rage at her heart, and utters imprecations, so that she can no longer be recognized as the mother of the world, would it be politic under such circumstances to arrest and make her answer judiciously for it?"

Ko-shih-fu replied:

"The Empress is mistress of the six seraglios. If she be guilty of an offence, it is not permissible to seize and make her answer for it. But if indeed her virtue remains behind her high position, she must be deposed from the rank of Empress by an edict, and another virtuous lady chosen to fulfil faithfully the duties of mother to the world. In this way the happiness of the Empire would be assured for ten thousand generations."

Upon this Yin-ch'in said:

"I have heard that the Princess of Pao is adorned with every womanly virtue, and is worthy of ruling in the central seraglio."

Yu-wang again spoke:—

"The Crown Prince is in Shen. If we degrade the Empress Shen-H'ou, what shall we do with the Crown Prince?"

Ko-shih-fu replied:

"I have heard it said the son and the mother and the mother and the son are the dearest to each other. As the Crown Prince is now in exile in Shen he cannot fulfil his duties as a child; and as the mother is to be degraded, we cannot use him any more. We all wish that Po-fu would be named Crown Prince. By this means alone can the land be blessed."

Yu-wang rejoiced exceedingly, and issued an Edict confining Shen-H'ou in the "Cold Chamber" (a solitary cell), and declaring that Ichu had forfeited the throne and nobility; on the other hand the Princess of Pao was proclaimed Empress, and Po-fu Crown Prince. The edict went on to say that whoever spoke against any of the arrangements thus made, would be regarded as an accomplice of Ichu, and would be severely punished.

This occurred in the ninth year of the reign of Yu (B. C. 773).—When the officials over the whole country heard of it, they felt angry at heart, but as they knew that the Emperor's resolve was immovable, and that if they made any representations to him on the subject they would bring death on themselves, they sealed their mouths (1) and held their peace. But the Imperial Astrologer Poyang-fu sighed and said: "The three Kangs (2) are cut in pieces, and one might await standing the fall of the house of Chou. (3) And immediately making the feebleness of old age a pretext, he sent in his resignation of his office. A great number of other officials did the same and retired to their lands in the country. In the court, about the Emperor, there remained only Ko-shifu, Yinch'in, Chai-Kung-i and other bad men. Yu-wang however passed his days in pleasure in the Seraglio with Pao-fe.

Although Pao-fe had now by craft reached the rank of lawful Empress, and she alone shared Yuwang's couch, her face was constantly overcast and no smile showed itself on her lips. Yu-wang would have been glad to cheer her up, and for this purpose ordered music to be played—bells sounded, drums were beaten, flutes blown and stringed-instruments were played, while the cup went round with merry songs; but Pao-fe's face was still overcast. Yu-wang therefore asked what she would like, as she found no pleasure in the music.

Pao-fe replied:

"I find pleasure in nothing in particular. But now I remember that as I tore the silk lately with my own hands, the sound of the tearing pleased my ear."

Yu-wang said: "If you desired to hear the sound of silk being torn, why did you not tell me so long ago?"

(1) Sic, literally, in the Chinese.

(2) Kang is the chief cord in a fishing net, by means of which the net is spread out and drawn in again. For officials the sovereign, for the son the father, for the wife the husband, have the same relation, which the cord has to the net—namely to regulate it. Hence these relationships are called the three Kangs or "net cords." Yu-wang broke the three because he caused dissatisfaction amongst the officials, exiled his son, and cast off his lawful wife.

(3) i.e. The house of Chou will fall before a person who is standing will grow tired and feel the want of a seat.

He immediately ordered the overseers of his storehouses to issue a hundred pieces of silk; and the strongest of the court ladies had to tear them up in order to cheer Pao-fe.

But, remarkable to relate! Although she was glad to hear the sound, a smile came on the cheeks just as little as before.

Yu-wang inquired again why she did not laugh, and was answered that it was not in her nature to do so. Yu-wang replied "I am determined that you shall laugh once at least." He therefore issued an edict to the following effect:

"He who causes the Empress Pao to laugh once shall have a present of 1,000 Taels, whoever he may be,—whether he belong to the Court or not."

Ko-shih-fu came before the Emperor, and said:

"In earlier times your Majesty's ancestors, in order to be always on their guard against sudden raids of the Western Barbarians, (1) erected more than twenty-five obelisks at the foot of Mount Li, on which from thirty to forty large drums were placed. When the barbarians fell on the land, the guards caused wolf's smoke (2) to ascend. As soon as the smoke was seen ascending to Heaven, all the vassals settled in the neighbourhood came to resist the attack: and when the drums began to sound, they hastened still more. Latterly profound peace has reigned under Heaven, and the signal fires are extinguished. If my lord and Emperor desires the Empress to laugh, Your Majesty must betake yourself with the Empress to mount Li and cause the smoke to ascend in the night. The feudal princes will certainly come with their auxiliary forces, and when they do so, and find no enemy, Her Majesty will certainly laugh."

Yu-wang replied that this was an excellent idea.

The Emperor then entered his carriage with Pao-H'ou and drove to mount Li. In the evening he prepared a banquet in the palace on Li, and gave the order to have the signal fires lighted. It occurred, however, that the Viscount Yô of Cheng who, as master of the ceremonies had to make all the necessary preparations, was in the palace when the Emperor set out on his journey. When he received the Emperor's order, he was filled with fear, and hastening to the palace said:

"Your Majesty's exalted ancestors have erected the fire obelisks in order to give the feudal princes information of danger which cannot be mistaken. If we now make the signal for no reason, it will be said that we have made fools of them. Then if afterwards something unexpected should occur, how shall the soldiers come to help us in our need?"

Yu-wang grew angry and said:

"Profound peace reigns under Heaven to-day, why should we want soldiers? The Empress and myself have come to the Li Palace and we have no amusement. I will therefore have a little joke with the feudal princes. I think that what may occur subsequently should be all the same to you!"

The advice of the Viscount of Cheng was therefore disregarded, large signal fires were lighted and the great drums were sounded. They resounded with a noise like thunder; and the fires flared up to Heaven.

The feudal princes in the neighbourhood believing that the capital was in danger, armed all their warriors, appointed commanders and made forced marches to Mount Li. Arriving there they were met by the sounds of joyful music from within. Yu-wang who had enjoyed himself at the banquet with Pao-fe, immediately sent a messenger to them to say:—"Fortunately there is no enemy in the land. You might have spared yourselves the trouble of clambering over mountains and wading through rivers."

The princes looked at each other in wonder, rolled up their banners and departed thence. While this was going on the Princess of Pao stood on the balcony of the palace, and when she looked down and saw how the feudal princes and their forces hasten up, and hasten back again, without anything happening, by an involuntary movement she struck her head with her open hand, and laughed loudly three times. But Yu-wang said that when she laughed a hundred pieces passed over her countenance.

(1) i.e. the Jung, mentioned in the first chapter.

(2) i.e. in the fire obelisks conveyed by a wolf's howl. Wolves' howls are the "three Kangs," give a strong and thicker smoke than any other bones.

"This," said he, "is K-shih-fu's reward" handing him a thousand taels. Up to the present day there is a proverb in every mouth:—"To buy a smile for a thousand taels." This saying originated from the above occurrence. The "Old man with the Beard" has written a special poem on this jest with the wolf's smoke in which he says:

"At night the sound of flute and song resounded in Li-kung, while without any occasion, the signal fires ascended to Heaven. The princes hastened up to help; but lo! it all occurred merely to get the Princess of Pao to laugh."

When the Count of Shen heard that Yu-wang had made the princess of Pao lawful Empress, he presented a memorial to the Emperor in which he said:

"When in ancient times Chieh (1) preferred Mehsi, (2) the house of Hsia was ruined; when Ch'ou (3) preferred Taohi, (4) the house of Shang was ruined. Your Majesty now prefers the Princess of Pao, the son of the lawful Empress is disinherited, and the son of a concubine is made Crown Prince. The marriage relations are destroyed, and the love between father and son is disregarded. The history of Chieh and Ch'ou repeats itself before our eyes; the misfortunes of the houses of Hsia and Shang will not tarry much longer. I hope that my lord and Emperor will recall this senseless edict, and then the evil which threatens the land may perhaps be averted."

When Yu-wang read this memorial, he struck the table with his hand, and cried angrily:

"Ha! the wretch dares to write such nonsense to me!"

Ko-shih-fu said:

"The Count of Shen has been dissatisfied at heart for a long time. Now that he hears that the Empress and the Crown Prince have been degraded, he meditates rebellion in his heart, and dares to reproach my Emperor thus publicly."

Yu-wang asked in what way he could best be punished.

Koshihfu replied:

"The Count of Shen has distinguished himself in nothing; his rank was increased only on account of his daughter the Empress. As both the Emperor and the Crown Prince have been degraded, the rank of the Count of Shen should also be taken away, and he should be reduced to the previous rank of Viscount. Soldiers should be sent at the same time to chastise him. In this manner further mischief will be prevented."

Yu-wang agreed with Ko-shih-fu and issued an order altering the title of the count of Shen to Viscount, and naming Ko-shih-fu as general with orders to prepare for a campaign against Shen. Who finally carried off the victory, and who was defeated, will be related in our next chapter.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

THE NEW CURRENCY.

(From the 'Hochi Shimbun'.)

AS WE think that we have already completed, in our previous numbers, our arguments on the wording of the Notification of the 27th of last month, we now proceed to consider the Silver Trade Dollar itself, and will show what advantages may be expected from the coin when the design of establishing it shall have fully succeeded. If it should really succeed in establishing itself, as the Government estimates it will, and shall acquire power in Oriental markets, then these advantages will be three:—1st the loss which arises from the excessive fluctuation of the Mexican Dollar (as we have briefly shown before) will be avoided; 2ndly, the current coin of the Japanese Empire will gain the renown of usurping power over the mercantile world of the East; and 3rdly, more or less profit will be gained from the charges for coining the immense quantities of silver coin which are required for circulation therein. If, indeed the Government have in view the idea of making profit—then we apparently know the principal aims of the Government to be no other than the three enumerated.

Since the Mexican Dollar has been supreme in the markets at our open ports, both home and foreign traders have fre-

quently and unwittingly sustained no little loss in transactions in goods and coin, in consequence of its fluctuations; and these fluctuations appear to have been principally caused from the Mexican Dollar being in excess, or in deficiency, and that this irregularity of supply should so often occur, seems to have been principally owing to the limited area of our markets (and consequent limited area of its circulation). For instance, take the state of the Yokohama market six or seven years ago. Was it not such that one could fairly correctly fix the season of the year when the Mexican Dollar would fall in value? That season was only when the sale was going on of Tea, Raw Silk, Silk-egg cards, &c., i.e. when foreign merchants were freely parting with Mexican dollars for the purchase of our produce; and so large a quantity of the coin being thrown at once upon our markets, it fell in value. This is an actual, practical, example of the excess or deficiency of the Mexican Dollar, so easily causing fluctuation in its price; and whenever this fluctuation occurs, the merchant from the interior has to suffer the loss and inconvenience of the Mexicans which he may be holding suddenly becoming different in value.

Now if we investigate the cause of this fluctuation itself we find it arises from the fact that the area of circulation of the Mexican Dollar is so limited.

If the area of circulation be limited, the total amount of coin in circulation must be small, and if the total amount be small, sudden fluctuation in value must necessarily ensue whenever there is a slight excess or deficiency in amount. This is how the Mexican Dollar occasionally inflicts loss upon our merchants from the interior. As however, the Mexican cannot be allowed to circulate generally throughout the country, the only remedy is to give to our own coin the same power in the markets. But even though the coin be our own, if its circulation be as limited as that of the Mexican Dollar, no complete success can be expected. But if a coin which is in general circulation in the interior be put into competition with the Mexican Dollars in the markets at the open ports; then, in consequence of its extensive and general circulation, the danger would be avoided of fluctuations arising from slight excess or deficiency, and merchants from the interior would not be exposed to sudden and unlooked-for loss by a fall in the exchange. At this we should extremely rejoice.

Although the Mexican Dollar has been for a long time in circulation in Oriental Markets,—on account of its bearing no reliable certificate of any of the Governments of the East,—its having been sometimes carelessly coined,—there being not a little counterfeit coin in circulation lately, and its having been disfigured by private stamps having been impressed upon it;—for these reasons, many people in Oriental markets are wishful to have a reliable coin to replace it. But the Chinese Government has not yet commenced to make new coin convenient for the purpose, nor has the British Government any intention to establish a new Mint especially for its territories in the East or for countries adjacent to them on the continent of Asia. If therefore, seizing the present good opportunity, a reliable character were given to our coin, so that it might acquire supreme power in Oriental markets, this indeed would redound greatly to the credit of the Japanese Empire. And further, should this scheme of replacing the coin really succeed; the 3rd advantage, i.e. the income from the charges for coinage would be great. We, however, know that the objects of our authorities in making this change in the currency are chiefly the 1st and 2nd we have named, and not for the 3rd. Should the great loss and injury to trade which arises from the fluctuations of the Mexican Dollar be put a stop to, and the coin of the Japanese Empire made to circulate in Oriental markets, our Mint authorities would be satisfied if the income paid for the labour, and would not look for profit.

What we have said above is a statement of the advantages derivable from what we presume to be the objects of our Government in changing the current coin at the open ports. That we all wish to see these three advantages gained, we have already briefly stated, but if we consider the means by which this scheme is to be carried out, then we come to the question:—Where is the supply of bullion for coining the Silver Trade Dollar to come from? As the markets in the East are extensive, the quantity of the Mexican Dollars circulating therein are also great. Therefore, in order to push it out of circulation, the amount of our own coin provided must be equally large; but,—from the actual state of things in the country,—we know that the supply from the

- (1) The last Emperor of the Hsia dynasty.
- (2) The notorious concubine of Chieh.
- (3) The last Emperor of the Hsia dynasty.
- (4) The notorious Concubine of Ch'ou.

silver mines is very limited, and evidently insufficient for the requirements it would have to meet.

The only means to get a sufficient supply for Oriental markets, will be to let foreign merchants bring the Mexican Dollar to the Mint for re-coining, and to let the people in the interior bring the old silver coins which they have been accumulating, or silver plate, ornaments, &c. But unless the coin of our country is really relied on, it will be difficult to get hold thus of the Mexican Dollar now actually in circulation, to use as bullion for our new coin and unless the silver stored by the people in the interior continues to come in regularly into the Mint, this source of supply also cannot be guaranteed against becoming deficient. As we cannot at the present moment foresee that these two things will be, we cannot be sure whether or not this scheme will bring forth a favourable result in the end. We shall therefore defer final decision on the success or failure of this scheme of the Government until we shall have seen a precise account of how these two things are going on. But as regards the scheme being a praiseworthy one,—on this head, we have nothing more to say.

(From the 'Nichi Nichi Shimbun'.)

WE have, in successive issues of our journal, argued that, although, by the laws of our country, Gold is the standard coin,—yet, in reality, gold and silver coins both occupy the position of standards; and we have also explained the changes which, in course of time, the standard has undergone. And we were about to proceed to argue on the advantages and disadvantages of double and single standards for coins, and also as to which of these had better be adopted in the existing state of the country. But the *Hochi Shimbun*, in the editorial columns of that paper of the 8th inst., having argued that, as the Silver Trade Dollar has no fixed name or rank, the Notification of the 27th ulto., alone, is not sufficient to prove that silver coin is made standard,—and attacked our arguments in favour of the theory—we, too, must defer proceeding with the expression of our views, and must for the sake of the *Hochi Shimbun* clear up his doubts.

The *Hochi Shimbun* says:—

"The Silver Trade Dollar is only a piece of silver, with the simple certificate that it has been coined by the Mint of the Japanese Government, and it has indeed the character of a 'Trade Dollar,'—inasmuch as the Government has not fixed it as exchangeable with the one *yen* gold coin, or any fixed amount of *sen*, but allows it to fluctuate freely from time to time."

He goes on to say that:—

"So long as the Government has not given this piece of silver a fixed name or rank, it is evident that the Silver Trade Dollar can, in accordance with its character as bullion, fluctuate freely in value from time to time, and that business may be transacted in it, according to the current price of the day."

And again:—

"As the current value at which it arrives in its fluctuations is calculated according to that of standard gold coin, and as gold coin remains unchangeable, this silver piece cannot be a standard coin, but must always depend on the value of Gold coin" and—"the Notification of the 27th ulto. simply shows that the current price of the Trade Dollar will differ from time to time according to the state of demand and supply: and if the people pay to the Government one Silver Trade Dollar at the current value of less than one *yen*, by what law has the Government the right to stop the people from doing so? On the other hand,—should the Government pay it out to the people at the rate of one Trade Dollar for one *yen*,—if the people refuse to receive it, except at the current price of the day when it may be of less value than a *yen*,—by virtue of what Notification can the Government force the people to accept it as one *yen*? According to the Notification of the 27th ulto. the people have the right to take from the Government the Silver Trade Dollar as one *yen*, or less, according to the current rate of the day. This, because the coin has no fixed name or rank, and still retains the character of a piece of bullion only."

The above quotations sufficiently display the arguments of the *Hochi Shimbun*.

In dealing with arguments like these, we must first recall to the memory of the Editor of the *Hochi Shimbun* the Laws of the Japanese Empire. We will give an extract from the

Law relating to the Silver Trade Dollar for his information:—

The 6th clause, on the Limit of Circulation of Coins, in the Regulations relating to the New Coinage, issued in the 5th month of the 4th year of Meiji (1871) says that:—

"The relative value of the silver *yen* and the standard gold coin, in payment of duties and taxes at the open ports, will be for the present at the rate of 100 *yen* of the Silver coin to 101 *yen* of the standard gold coin" (i. e. at the rate of 23.38 grains of gold to 37.44 grains of silver).

The Notification No. 35 of the 28th day of the 2nd month of the 8th year of Meiji (1875) says:—

"It is hereby notified that the Silver one *yen* which has hitherto been coined in the Mint at Osaka shall hereafter be increased in weight and named 'Silver Trade Dollar,' in consequence of which, the device on its face and reverse, its weight and the amount of charge for coining &c. shall be revised as mentioned in the accompanying note" (i. e. at the rate of 23.38 grains of gold to 388 grains of silver). The 6th clause, on the Limit of circulation of coins in the Coinage Regulations of 1871 (quoted above) revised by the Notification No. 27 of the 4th of the 3rd month of 8th year of Meiji (1876) says:—

"The relative value of the Silver Trade Dollar—old and new—and the Standard gold coin, at which rate, duties and taxes may be paid at the open ports by foreigners, will be at the rate of 100 of the silver coins to 100 *yen* of the standard gold coins," (i. e. at the rate of 23.15 grains of gold to 388 grains of silver). And Notification No. 56 of the Tōkiō fu on the 23rd day of the 3rd month of the same year says:—

"It is hereby notified, in accordance with orders from the Okurashō (Finance Department) and for the information of the public, that the revision of the relative value of Silver Trade Dollars and the standard gold coin having been recently notified by Notification No. 27 of the Daijō Kuwan (Council of State) Mexican dollars shall also be calculated at the rate of 100 Mexican Dollars to 100 *yen* of the gold coin."

Thus, by the laws now in existence, one Silver Trade Dollar is made to circulate at the same value as one Gold coin and this will be sufficient to prove that it is not—as the *Hochi Shimbun* says—allowed to fluctuate freely in value. So that, in transactions between the Government and the people, the latter have no right to take the Silver Trade Dollar as one *yen* or under according to the current rate of the day.

Further, the 5th clause on the Limit of Circulation in the Coinage Regulations, which was revised in the 6th month of the 8th year of Meiji runs thus:—

"The Silver Trade Dollars may only be used for paying duties on exports and imports, and other taxes paid by foreigners, and also in business transactions between Japanese and foreigners; it cannot be used in payment of taxes in the interior, nor in general business;" and has now been revised by the Notification of the 27th ulto. to this:—

"These Silver Trade Dollars may be used in paying the Custom's duties and all other taxes paid by foreigners, and in all business transactions between Japanese and foreigners, and also in payment of all taxes in the interior, and in all other payments, public or private, the same shall be legal tender to any amount." And so the Silver Trade Dollar has to perform the duty of a standard coin and may be calculated to any amount, and it is not necessary to put any limits on it.

Such being the law, both Government and people, since the 27th of last month, may make payments in public or private, with the Silver Trade Dollar, and the receiver has no reason to refuse to accept it. And further, as it cannot be looked on as equally limited with the subsidiary coin of a fixed rank (not the 'fixed rank' of the *Hochi Shimbun*, but that of the Coinage Regulations) it may be paid out to the extent of mill ones of *yen*. And, as regards its value, the law being, as plainly shown above, that one gold *yen* is to be of the same value as one Silver Trade Dollar,—so long as the law of Japan will not allow standard coin to be sold publicly at the current price of coins of the day (though in the market the difference between gold coin and the Silver Trade Dollar may be more than five per cent, the people must pay both coins to Government as of equal value, and Government, too, must accept them in the same way. This is clear, too, from the fact that, though gold coin is about 10 per cent

higher than paper money in the market at present, yet in public transactions they are treated as of the same value.

We believe that the above explanation will be sufficient to make clear the doubts of the *Hochi Shimbun*, and that the Editor will come to a thorough understanding on the subject. Should there, however, be any point which is not so understood, we shall not decline again to explain it.

EXTRACT.

THE DISASTER TO THE "CHINA."

(From the *Bombay Gazette*.)

THOSE passengers who left Bombay harbour on Monday evening (May 13) in the *Kashgar*, and who were to have sailed in the *China*, have reason to congratulate themselves that the fire which has nearly destroyed the latter steamer did not break out at sea, for if it had, there would have been a terrible disaster. If the fire could not be mastered in the harbour, where every appliance for extinction was at hand, much less could it have been subdued in the open sea. It may be thought that it would have been impossible for the fire to have taken place outside of the harbour, but this is a mistake. No one is able to say definitely how the fire occurred, but as it was discovered in the fore-hatch, where cotton was stowed, there is every reason to suspect that the catastrophe was caused by some bale that had caught fire before it was placed on board the ship—probably in a native cargo boat, in which the crews are addicted to smoking native cigarettes and throwing them about anywhere when done with them. Now, it is astonishing how long a close-pressed bale will smoulder when once it has caught fire. It will smoulder away slowly and almost imperceptibly for days, and it is only accidents that will determine when it shall burst into flames. The *China* was to have left for Suez on Monday, and it was extremely fortunate that the smouldering bale burst into active flame when it did, for had it smouldered for but a few days more the steamer would have been at sea; and we have seen that when the fire did break out, it was found impossible to subdue it without sinking the ship. Looking at the danger which has been run, would it not be well henceforth for rigorous measures to be taken to prevent native boatmen from smoking in the vicinity of inflammable cargoes they may be taking off to steamers? We think the matter is worth the serious consideration of every person concerned.

The *China*, formerly a fine frigate-looking steamer, now presents a singular appearance, and it is strange that so few of the public have gone off to see the unusual spectacle that, comparatively speaking, is now lying at their very doors. The sight of a fine steamer lying at one time up to her rails in water and at another all but hidden beneath the waves, nothing of her being visible but two masts, the upper part of a black funnel, the bridge, and the roof of the captain's cabin, is not one to be seen every day. On Monday we visited the steamer, and had an opportunity of realising the extent of the disaster which has occurred to her. The scene is the beautiful one that all who have looked across the harbour from Mazagon Bunder are acquainted with;—in front the group of P. and O. steamers, and in the background the verdant isles of Salsette, Elephanta, and Butcher's Island, with many a white sail flitting between them over the dark blue water. The *China* lies nearly a mile off the Bunder, on what is called the Mazagon mud-bank. She is surrounded by boats, which, coupled with her position, makes her almost invisible until the visitor is close upon her. Then, if the tide happens to be low, he can see a long strip of black surmounted with white railings, and this is the principal part of the *China* visible. The figurehead is a Mandarin with a long pigtail, and his toes are in the water; at high tides he and his pigtail disappear altogether. The boats and barges near the steamer are filled with pumping apparatus and shrieking natives. Here on one barge are two of the Municipality fire engines, under the charge of Mr. Whittaker; on another, there is the Port Trust fire engine; and a little further on, there are the Government water boat, two P. and O. water boats, and one anchor hoy, all provided with suction pipes. The engines and the suction apparatus are all hard at work, making a hissing, deafening clamour. On board the *China*, we see what all this energy is being directed against. Half a dozen hose pipes are down in the ship's hold, but although they are continually swollen with water, and look like bloated balloons, somehow the great black ditch in the inside of the steamer never seems to get any nearer the fever. One is reminded by their efforts of Mrs. Partington's mode of extermination to sweep back the Atlantic from her door with a mop. Nevertheless, everybody who can possibly get an excuse for touching a hose or

touching a fire engine, or a suction pipe seems to think he is doing excellent service. No doubt plenty of hard work is being done, and has been done during the last four days; but, *cui bono*? Look at the water in the inside of the steamer, and there find the answer. The water is just on a level with the tide outside. Perhaps the 150 odd men who are struggling about night and day with the hose-pipes might succeed in emptying the steamer, but alas! they cannot make the necessary arrangements with the tides. These flow twice a day, leaving the workers only about six hours to work; and as sure as they come they fill the ship again and leave her just as bad as she was before—that is, hopelessly under water. On Monday, great hopes were entertained that the tides would be outwitted. A large Port Trust centrifugal pump, capable of throwing out water at the rate of 130 tons an hour, was fixed on planks above the main hatch. Steam was got up; but unfortunately the pump would not work. Nobody seemed to understand it; there was a valve shut up, or something of that kind; and at last, when the shades of eve were falling, and the steamer was fast getting into her totally submerged condition, it was acknowledged that the working of the great pump must be abandoned for a day and that meantime its doctor must be called in. But there are some who shake their heads at the big pump, and say that it will never do; and they argue thus. There are only three hours for work before one tide comes and sweeps right over the vessel; therefore, the steamer must have as much water taken out of her in that time as will float her—say, at least 1,500 tons. The centrifugal pump can only throw 390 tons of water in three hours; all engines and suction pipes together might perhaps manage to throw the same quantity—or, 800 tons, in round numbers. Well, there must be at least 3,000 tons of water in the *China*; besides, she is stuck in the mud about 12 feet deep; so that on the whole there may be good reason for the doubters shaking their heads even at a big centrifugal pump. How deeply she has sunk into the mud-bank may be imagined from this circumstance. At half-past five yesterday morning hawsers were attached to her from the powerful tug *Colaba*. The tug got up steam, but not an inch would the *China* budge. The idea of those who tried to move her was that if she did move, a vacuum would be created beneath her which might help to send her up. To-day the centrifugal pump and every other available pump will be set to work, and another attempt will at the same time be made by sheer haulage to dislocate her from her abode in the mud. Should these combined efforts fail, it is difficult to imagine what will be done with the luckless vessel. The neap tides will have to be waited for, more pumping power will have to be applied, and then perhaps we shall see the *China* once more floating in the harbour in her pride of place among the rest of the shipping. In the meantime, her interior is a scene of melancholy desolation. We popped our head through the skylight to have a look at the saloon, once splendid with gilding and polished maple; but we had quickly to withdraw it as the stench of bilge water was disgusting. But we saw enough in that brief glimpse to make even a Cornish wrecker sad. The saloon was simply a dark pond of dirty water, and black unhealthy-looking crabs were crawling over what once were gilded cornices. Crabs and dirty water in the saloon which was wont to echo with the silvery laughter of hopeful spinsters on their way to India! and the table which used to look gorgeous with flowers, epergnes, and silver things galore, invisible for the alms of Bombay harbour! Speak of the desolation of the Halls of Balclutha after that. By the way, the rats had every reason to regret the *China's* catastrophe. Driven out by the rising water, they rushed in hundreds—some say thousands—over the deck, up the rigging, up the funnel (down which a good many of them fell again)—anywhere, in short, where a desperate quadruped could find a footing. A dog-maniac would have been in Paradise if he had been there with his bull-dogs and terriers. Besides the rats, we should think a good many shippers have been rendered disconsolate by the scuttling of the ship. The whole of the cargo in the fore-part of the *China* was destroyed by fire, and what remained elsewhere has since been spoiled by water. We were sorry to hear also that all the stewards lost everything they possessed except the clothes they stood in when the ship went down. In short, the *China*, as the representative of a very deplorable accident to the P. and O. Company and others connected with them, is worth seeing at the present moment.

The *China* had not left her soft bed in the Mazagon mud-bank on Tuesday night, though strong hopes were entertained that she would be once more afloat with Wednesday morning's tide. On Monday night, or rather early on Tuesday morning, when the tide reached a point sufficiently low to admit of operations being commenced, the Port Trust big centrifugal pump and the host of smaller pumps gathered together on the spot were set going, and work set away with a will, and with such good effect that the water

within the vessel sank lower and lower till its surface did not reach within two feet of the main deck; but at this juncture, something went wrong with the big pump, and before it could be set right, the tide rose again with its steady, overpowering advance, and soon filled the ship as full as she was before. On Tuesday, another powerful pump was procured, from Messrs. Glover and Co., and was fixed on the deck, and during the afternoon both it and the Port Trust pump were set working to test them, and were found to answer admirably. It was intended to set them to work in earnest about two o'clock this morning (nearly low water), and it was hoped that before the tide began to make again, the ship would be relieved of so much of her heavy burden of water as to enable her to rise and float. Should this effort prove unsuccessful, we presume they will endeavour to raise her by other means, and perhaps more efficient, though more tedious and more costly means.

We are glad to say that on Wednesday morning (15th) the first favourable symptoms in the case of the China were observed. At a very early hour two powerful centrifugal pumps were placed in position, and when the tide commenced to ebb, they were set agoing, and everybody worked away with a will at the minor suction pipes that were stationed on flats round the steamer. At ten minutes past seven the ship was felt to "shudder"—everybody listened or felt, and she was distinctly observed moving again. It was true that she moved but slightly, but even that little motion betrayed the important fact that she had dislocated herself from the mud-dock she had made for herself far down. Work was renewed with increased vigour. The tide was rising rapidly again, and the question was, would it rise soon enough to engulf her again? Hundreds of men pumped as if for dear life. It was a race between human skill and labour against the inexorable powers of nature. The tide still rose and rose, despite the utmost efforts of the crew. They thought that the tide must beat them. But it did not. It kept rising and rising; the men wrought with redoubled energy; and at last the tide stopped about ten o'clock just four inches below the gunwale. It was a "near thing," and the sense of relief felt by Captain Alderton and his men was indescribable. They rested a little, and set to work again full of hope. As they did so, the steamer moved more and more, and observations made on shore showed that she had drifted by noon fully twenty yards through the yielding mud. Last evening considerable progress had been made in draining her. The saloon was quite dry, though wofully besmirched, and we are told that the rats that had perched themselves on the masts came down again with as much cheerfulness betrayed in their stealthy steps as they could possibly show. The ship was altogether about ten feet high and clear out of the water. She looked sadly bedraggled and dirty, and the stench issuing from her bilge water and rotting cargo was something awful; but in the course of a day or two, we hope she will be all right again and none the worse of her unfortunate bath. When she is quite pumped out, she will be docked;

then she will be scraped and painted, and on the outside, at all events, will look as smart as ever, though we are afraid she will have to go to England to get her saloon and cabins made as fresh-looking as of yore.

On Thursday morning (May 16th) the Steamer China was floated completely off the mud-bank and was towed to one of the P. and O. Co.'s regular moorings. We regret to learn, however, that she is drawing such a depth of water (something like 27 feet) that she cannot be towed into dock, and there is a possibility that in order to save her she may have to be run on the mud-bank again. Captain Alderton and his men are hard at work endeavouring to avert this result, but their labours wear just now a somewhat doubtful complexion.

THE JAPAN TIMES, A WEEKLY REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE AND ART.

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CONTENTS OF No. 26. NEW SERIES, VOL. I. JUNE 29TH, 1878.

LEADING ARTICLES.

Irregular Irregularities. Wasted Labour. L' Envoy

EDITORIAL NOTES.—NOTES OF THE WEEK.—NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN OF PAO.

(From the Chinese.) By C. Arendt, Esq. (Specially translated from the German for the *Japan Times*.) Chap. II. The Emperor Yu. The Beautiful Maiden. Wolf's Smoke.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The New Currency. The *Hochi Shimbun*. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*.

EXTRACTS.

The raising of the *China*. (*Dombay Gazette*.)

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c. Advertisements.

CONTENTS OF No. 25. JUNE 22, 1878.

China, Japan, and 'the most favoured nation clause.' The Tea Duty scare. The Strength of England.

Editorial Notes. Notes of the Week.

The Japanese Press. On the Circulation of the New Trade Dollar. (Articles from the *Hochi Shimbun*, *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and *Chitgai Bukka Shimpō*.)

The Beautiful maiden of Pao. (From the Chinese.) Chap. I.

Extracts. The Strength of England. (From 'The Times'.)

Commercial and Shipping Intelligence, &c., &c. Advertisements.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORTS.

FRIDAY EVENING, June 28th 1877.

IMPORTS:—The week has been passed in this market in a state of quiescence so nearly like total stagnation that we might with perfect propriety have altogether withdrawn this report. Quotations remain unchanged, as do the relative attitudes of buyer and seller. A few sales of yarn have taken place, but hardly anything has been done in any other goods. We leave our table of quotations in the same condition as last week and pass to the more interesting markets of our Export staples.

EXPORTS:—**SILK.** The Silk season 1878-79 may be said to have opened on the 20th instant with the arrival of four Bales of new Hachioji Hanks No. 3-3½ which after much deliberation were settled at \$490 per picul. On the 22nd inst. several more small parcels arrived, consisting of Takasaki and Mayebashi Hanks No. 2½-3 and they were sold at \$500 per picul, thus making in all 41 packed bales of new silk for the French mail of the 26th inst. In view of the unfavourable news from Europe, the prices paid for the first arrivals appear decidedly high, and probably it is only the wish to ship a few bales by the first steamer, which has prompted some of our buyers to open the Market at such high rates.

After the departure of the mail of the 26 inst., 27 Bales of Hachioji and 22 Bales of Mayebashi arrived: the former found buyers at prices ranging from \$470 to \$480 per picul, which already showed a drop of \$10 to \$15 per picul on the first purchases and the latter still remain unsold.

To-morrow, about 80 Japanese Bales more are expected, and it is highly probable that holders will have to submit to a further reduction. The quality of the new silk is fair, but as is usual with the first parcels, they are rather mixed. It now appears certain that the Japan crop is a very good one, and fully as much silk may be expected as last year.

We are still without sufficient business to justify tabulated quotations. Total shipments to date, season 1877-78 21,983 bales, against 21,178 Bales, season 1876-77. Shipments of new silk 41 bales. Stock, old silk about 300 Japanese bales; unsold new silk 22 bales.

TEA:—The market has been somewhat quieter during closing week, business done amounting to Pels 4,000 and prices ruling somewhat easier. First Arrivals of Second Crop are expected here in course of the coming week and the quality of these is reported as satisfactory.

EXCHANGE:—The weakness manifested in the closing rates for sterling in our last issue has continued throughout the past week and the market again closes with a declining tendency on quotations. A considerable business has been done in private paper at rates varying from 3s. 11½d to 3s. 11¼d. Demand for Bank drafts has not been on the usual scale.

On Hongkong and Shanghai a very moderate business is reported, and the same remark applies to Exchange on America.

ON LONDON, Bank 6 m. s. 3s. 10½d to 11d
" sight..... 3s. 10½d
" Credits 6 m. s. ... 3s. 11¼d
" Doc'ts " ... 3s. 11¼d
" continental. 3s. 11¼d

ON PARIS, Bank 6 m. s. 4.92½
" sight 4.85
" Doc'ts 6 m. s. 4.95 n.m.
ON SAN FRANCISCO, Bank sight... 94½
ON NEW YORK, " ... 94

ON SHANGHAI, Bank sight..... 73
" Private 10d.s. ... 73½
ON HONGKONG, Bank sight 4½% dis.
" Private 10d.s. ... 1½% "

BULLION & CURRENCY Gold Yen 390½, Kinsatsu 429

QUOTATIONS OF ARTICLES OF IMPORT AND EXPORT.

IMPORTS.	Prices.	Reported Sales.		REMARKS.
Cotton Yarn— Nos. 16 to 24 per picul	\$24.50 to —			
" ditto Reverse "	nominal			
" 28 to 32 "	32.25 to 33.75			
(Bombay) No. 20 "	33.00 to 38.00			
" Nos. 16 to 18 "	27.00 to 28.75			
" No. 30 "	28.00 to —			
" " " " " " "	32.00 to —			
Cotton Piece Goods— Grey Shirtings 7.0 lbs. per piece	nominal			
" " " " 9 lbs., 45 in. ... "	1.97½ to 2.25			
T. Cloths 6.0 lbs. "	2.12½ to 2.42½			
" 7.0 lbs. "	nominal			
English Grey Drills 14 to 15 lbs. ... "	"			
Wh. Shtgs. 60 to 64 reed 40 yds. 35 in. ... "	"			
Indigo Shirtings 12 yds by 44 in. ... "	"			
Turkey Red Cambrics 2¼ to 2½ lbs. ... "	1.80 to 2.10			
" 3.0 lbs. "	nominal			
Black Velvets "	6.25 to 7.10			
Taffachelass (single warp) "	nominal			
" (double warp) "	"			
Chintzes (assorted) "	"			
Victoria Lawns "	0.79 to —			
Cotton Italians (col'd) per yard	0.12 to 0.12½			
" (blk.) "	nominal			
Woollens and Worsteds— Plain Orleans 40 to 42 yards ... per piece	5.60 to 7.10			
Mousseline de Laine 24 to 30 yds. by 31 in. Plain per yard	0.17½ to 0.18			
Striped "	0.20 to —			
Figured Lustres 30 yds. by 31 in. per piece	— to —			
Cloth (Woolen) per yard	0.80 to 1.50			
" Union (54 in.) "	0.50 to 0.85			
Blankets 6 lbs. to 6½ lbs. assd. c'lor. per lb.	nominal			
" 7 " to 8 " " " "	"			
Metals, &c.— Iron, Nail Rod—large per picul	2.35 to 2.80			
" " small "	3.00 to 3.15			
" Bars, flat and round "	2.60 to 3.20			
" Pig "	1.50 to 1.75			
Lead "	5.00 to 6.00			
Tin Plates "	5.45 to 5.70			
Window Glass per box	2.80 to 3.20			
Kerosine Oil per case	2.60 to —			
Quicksilver "	63.90 to —			
Coal—Anthracite per ton	15.00 to —			
" Welsh "	11.50 to 12.00			
" Australian... .. "	9.00 to 9.50			
China and Straits Produce— Cotton, Shanghai per picul	15.50 to 16.00			
Formosa Sugar, Takao "	4.45 to 5.00			
" Taiwan "	4.85 to 4.90			
" White "	nominal			
Saigon Rice "	"			

} 846 Bales

} 2,150 pieces

50 "

200 "

1,490 "

1,800 "

90

4,900 "

550 "

1000 pairs

Small business.

Nominal.

Do.

Do.

Fair demand.

Nominal.

No sales reported.

Market weak, at quotations.

EXPORTS.	Prices.	Laid down in London.	Laid down in Lyons.	Purchases.	Stock.
Silk:—					
Hanks No. 1 and 2					
" No. 2					
" No. 2½ (good medium)					
" No. 3 (medium)					
" Inferior					
Oshio No. 1 and 2					
" No. 1, 2 and 3					
Hamasaki No. 1, 2 and 3... ..					
Tea:—					
Common per pel.	12.00 to — pr. pl.				
Good Common... ..	13.00 to 15.00 "				
Medium	16.00 to 17.00 "				
Good Medium	18.00 to 21.00 "				
Fine	22.00 to 25.00 "				
Finest	28.00 to 29.00 "				
Choice	31.00 to 35.00 "				
Sundries:—					
Tobacco, Nambu ... per pel.	12.00 to — pr. pl.				
" Various	7.00 to 9.50 "				
Vegetable, Wax	12.00 to 13.00 "				
Coal, Takashima	9.00 to 10.50 "				
" Karatz	7.00 to 9.00 "				
" Common	6.00 to 7.00 "				
Rice	2.20 to 2.55 "				
Sulphur (common)... ..	2.60 to 2.80 "				
				Pels. 4,000	Pels. 3,000

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Inwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	PORT OF DEPARTURE.	LEFT PORT.	CARGO.	CONSIGNEES.
June 22	Hammonia	Wheller	Ger. barq.	408	Takao	June 15	Sugar	Chinese.
" 22	Orissa	Briscoe	Brit. str.	1,119	Hongkong	June 15	Mails and general	P. & O. Co.
" 22	Hideyoshi	Morris	Jap. str.	466	London	Apr. 14	Iron & Guns	Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
" 22	Earl of Devon	Beer	Brit. barq.	441	Antwerp		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 22	Flying Spur	Croote	Brit. barq.	735	London		General	L. Kniffier & Co.
" 24	Clarissa B. Carver	Dow	Am. ship	1,144	New York	Feb. 9	Kerosine	To Order.
" 24	Thingvalla	Molsen	Dan. str.	1,577	Shanghai		Ballast	Adamson, Bell & Co.
" 25	Wakanoura Maru	Wynn	Jap. str.	1,346	Hakodate	June 22	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 26	Shario Maru	Hogg	Jap. str.	524	Kobe	" 24	General	M. B. M. Co.
" 26	Beatrice	Williams	Brit. schr.	66	Guam		General	Captain.
" 26	G. R. Stanhope	Pillsbury	Am. barq.	407	Newcastle N.S.W.	May 1	Coals	Walsh, Hall & Co.
" 27	City of Tokio	Maury	Am. str.	5,050	Hongkong	June 22	Mails and general	P. M. Co.
" 28	Christine	Wildfang	Ger. barq.	542	Niigata		Rice	E. B. Watson.
" 28	Meiji Maru	Peters	Jap. str.	1,010	N. Cost			Lighthouse Dept.

PASSENGERS:—Per British steamer, *Orissa*, from Hongkong:—Comdr. Edwards, R.N., Mr. Fenner, Mrs. Parr and daughter, Mr. Soobhoy, Mr. I. H. Wong, wife and infant in cabin; and 11 Chinese in steerage.
 Per Japanese steamer, *Shario Maru*, from Kobe:—Mr. E. C. Kirby.
 Per American steamer, *City of Tokio*, from Hongkong:—His Ex. Mr. J. F. Elmore, (Peruvian Minister), and servant, Messrs. J. Beltran (Private Secretary), and R. M. Brown in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. F. G. Heron, and His Ex. Mr. Chun Lan Pun (Chinese Minister), and 22 Chinese in cabin.

LEFT PORT FOR JAPAN.—FROM LONDON FOR CHINA AND JAPAN PORTS.

FROM LONDON FOR JAPAN DIRECT:—"Fair Leader," Sept. 25; "Laurel," Feb. 17; "Bon Accord," Mar. 21; "Berwickshire," April 26.
 FROM NEW YORK:—"William Hales," Jan. 24; "City of Boston," Mar. 8; "G. H. Ingersoll," Mar. 15; "Hattie E. Tapley," Mar. 19; "Francisca," April 7; "Pym," March 20; "Grandee," April 19.
 FROM BALTIMORE:—"Christine," July 3.
 FROM SHIELDS:—"Dr. Petermann," Jan. 7.
 FROM ANJER:—"Fair Leader," Apr. 3;
 FROM NEWPORT:—"Windermere," Mar. 11.
 FROM HONGKONG:—"Tanais," June 25.
 FROM SAN FRANCISCO:—"China," June 4.
 FROM NEWCASTLE, N. S. W.:—"Formosa," "Henrietta," "L. B. Burnham," May 8th and 9th.

LOADING FOR JAPAN:—AT LONDON:—S. S. "Sumatra," "John Milton." At Hamburg:—"Buck."

MAILS DUE FROM:—Hongkong P. & O. str., July 9th; Hongkong M. M. str., July 3rd; San Francisco, P. M. str., June 26th
 Shanghai, Kobe and Nagasaki M. B. M. str., June 29th.

CARGO:—Per American steamer, *City of Tokio*, from Hongkong:—2,005 packages.

REPORTS:—The German barque *Hammonia* reports:—Left Takao on the 28th May: Experienced light head-winds during the entire passage. On June 14th exchanged signals with the American ship *S. F. P. K.* which wished to be reported 20 days out from Hongkong to San Francisco; 4 days in company.

The Japanese steamer *Hideyoshi* reports:—Left Singapore June 7th. Fine weather with monsoon to Formosa. Thence very variable with much rain.

The British barque *Flying Spur* reports:—Left London February 9th, and Downs on the 11th, landed pilot next day at Isle of Wight. Crossing Bay of Biscay, encountered S. W. gales. Had very light N. E. trades. Passed East of C. de Verde Island. Lost N. E. trades in lat. 5° N. on 11th March. The Equator was crossed on the 19th March (36 days out). Passed the Meridian of Cape of Good Hope 14th April, and passed Anjer 16th May. Had very light S. W. winds up the China sea to the Pratas Shoal (June 1st), followed by 21 days N. E. winds. When about 50 miles N. E. of Osima, the wind hauled to South with thick rainy weather; made Cape Idzu at 8 a.m. 22nd inst. and took a pilot off Cape Sagami at 2 p.m., arriving in Yokohama 11th 5m. p.m. 22nd inst.

The British barque *Earl of Devon* reports:—Left Plymouth on the 4th February last. Passed Anjer on the 16th May; and arrived in Yokohama on the 22nd June, having experienced both heavy gales and some fine weather during the passage.

The American steamer *City of Tokio* reports:—Left Hongkong on the 22nd June, 1878, with 28 cabin, 15 Europeans and 273 Chinese steerage passengers, 2,531 tons cargo, and 6 packages mails.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Outwards.

DATE.	SHIP'S NAME.	CAPTAIN.	FLAG & REG.	TON- NAGE.	DESTINATION.	DUE AT PORT.	CARGO.	DESPATCHED BY.
June 24	Takachiho Maru	Sikemen	Jap. str.	1,704	Hakodate	June 28	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 26	Volga	Rolland	Frch. str.	1,502	Hongkong	July 4	Mails and general	M. M. Co.
" 26	Hiroshima Maru	Bardis	Jap. str.	1,870	Shanghai & ports	" 4	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.
" 27	Sumida Maru	Hubenet	Jap. str.	896	Kobe	June 29	Mails and general	M. B. M. Co.

PASSENGERS:—Per French steamer, *Volga*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. Ed. Nielsen, C. O. Flodin, C. F. Hermansen, J. W. Jacobson, L. P. Petersen, F. Lilliblad, P. Niestrom, C. Johnston, N. Laisen, G. Hanson, F. Klattig, J. Lamb, P. Peré, G. Albin, W. Slamm and W. Ayrton.

Per Japanese steamer, *Hiroshima Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Inouye and 2 children, Revd. and Mrs. Chauncey Goodrich, Mr. and Mrs. Yue and child, Messrs. G. W. Rose, Nishimura, Midzuhara, Nagashima, G. Bonko, Shinowara, E. Reiff, C. E. Fenner, J. Eich, Witrowski, and Donsdebbs.

LOADING:—*Orissa*, for Hongkong and Europe, July 3rd.—P. & O. Co.
Nagoya Maru, for Shanghai and ports, July 1st.—M. B. M. Co.
Glenorchy, for New York, Quick despatch.—Jardine Matheson & Co.
City of Tokio, for San Francisco, July 1st.—P. M. Co.
Gaelic (Hulk), for San Francisco, July 14th.—O. & O. Co.
Emma C. Beal, for San Francisco, June 25th.—Walsh, Hall & Co.
Obed Baxter, for New York, Quick despatch.—C. & J. Trading Co.
Rurik, for Callao, July 1st.—Moulton.
Tawuga Maru, for Hakodate, July 3rd.—M. B. M. Co.

MAILS LEAVING:—For Hongkong, P. & O. str., July 3rd; for Hongkong, M. M. str., July 10th; for America, P. M. str., July 1st; O. & O. str., July 14th; for Shanghai, Hiogo, and Nagasaki, M. B. M. str., July 1st; for Hakodate, M. B. M. str., July 3rd.

CARGO:—Per French steamer, *Volga*, for Hongkong:—Silk for France, 24 bales; Silk for London, 25 bales; Total, 49 bales. Waste Silk, 42 bales; Treasure for London, \$29,600.00
 Per Japanese steamer, *Hiroshima Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$5,100.00; Treasure, Yen 179,308.92.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills of Exchange on London, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hongkong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Rangoon, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Tellicherry, New York, San Francisco, and other places, which may be ascertained at the office of the Corporation, or at the Agents for the use of Travellers by the Corporation, in India and America.

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Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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In India Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
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China Hongkong, Foochow, Shanghai.
Japan Yokohama.

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Bank of England—London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank receives money on deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts the usual Banking, and Agency business connected with the East, on terms to be had on application.

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Ordinary drawings every month
June and December excepted. Extraordinary drawings two
drawings a year June and Dec.

1 prize of \$ 16,000	1 prize of \$ 60,000
1 " " " 4,000	1 " " " 25,000
5 prizes " " 1,000 each.	5 prizes " " 5,000 each
8 " " " 500 "	15 " " " 1,000 "
20 " " " 100 "	20 " " " 500 "
450 " " " 30 "	400 " " " 100 "
2 approximations of \$250 "	9 approximations of \$500 "
Ticket \$6.00	2 " " " 250 "
	Ticket \$24.00

Postage Extra.

Positively not accepted only at the discount of the day. Very few tickets ordered beyond the number subscribed in advance.

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This Society, originally established in 1797, and re-organised in 1821, offers advantages to the insuring public which other companies of more recent standing are unable to do.

In case of Fire, the Agents are authorised by special powers from the Directors to adjust the claim.

RATES FOR YOKOHAMA.

Godown, First Class.....12 Months.....1 1/2 Per Cent.
" " " " 6 " " " 1 " " "
" " " " 3 " " " 1/2 " " "
" " " " 1 " " " 1/4 " " "
" " " " 10 days3-16 " "

Dwelling Houses in the Settlement,
First Class, per annum.....2 1/2 Per Cent.

Second " " " " 3 " "

Dwelling Houses on the Bluff,
First Class, per annum.....1 1/2 Per Cent.

Second " " " " 2 " "

AGENTS FOR JAPAN.

Messrs. BAVIER AND COMPANY

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE CO., OF LONDON.

(ESTABLISHED 1782.)

The importance of the transactions of the Phoenix Fire Office may be estimated from the fact that its payments in satisfaction of Claims for Losses by Fire have exceeded

TEN MILLIONS STERLING.

THE MANCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO.

(ESTABLISHED 1874.)

These Companies will accept Risks of large amounts upon Buildings, Furniture, Goods and Merchandise of all descriptions at current rates of premium.

Claims will be paid immediately proof of loss is tendered to the Agents.

HIOGO—Sub-Agents,

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MANCHESTER Co., CHAS. BRAESS, Esq.

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General Agents in Japan.

Yokohama, January 1, 1878.

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J. PH. VON HEMERT.

Yokohama, Dec. 18th, 1874.

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Risks at current rates on every description of Property.

LIFE.

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EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,

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